

Moscow's joy at freedom for the Sakharovs

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Soviet Union yesterday made a far-reaching gesture to try to improve its tarnished image in the field of human rights by announcing an end to the internal exile imposed nearly seven years ago on Dr Andrei Sakharov, the country's best known dissident.

The unexpected gesture, which had been repeatedly demanded by Western leaders, was announced at an other-wise routine press conference called by the Soviet Foreign Ministry, ostensibly to discuss the future of the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing.

Prompted by a question from an American television reporter, Mr Vladimir Perlovsky, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, stunned the 400 Western and Soviet newsmen by informing them that Dr Sakharov was free to return to Moscow from the closed city of Gorky and to resume his scientific career.

Mr Petrovsky, who was understood to have been acting on the specific orders of Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, the Soviet leader, went on to announce that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet had also offered a pardon to Dr Sakharov's wife, Mrs Yelena

Background, reaction 6 Peter Reddaway 17 Leading article 17

Ex-champion jockey freed on £1.2m sureties



Lester Piggott: Must report weekly to the police.

Lester Piggott accused of false tax statement

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Lester Piggott, the former champion jockey, appeared yesterday before Newmarket magistrates accused of making a false tax statement about his bank accounts. He was remanded until March 19.

The magistrates had given one of Britain's legendary figures three hours to raise £200,000 in bail sureties and £1 million in cash to put before the court or face prison.

He was unable to raise the cash but had his home and stables valued at a little short of the £1 million needed. The court accepted the deeds plus increased sureties.

At the end of two special court sessions last night Mr Piggott was freed after two other famous racing figures had each pledged £125,000. They were Mr Henry Cecil, the leading trainer, and Mr Charles St George, the millionaire Newmarket race horse owner.

Mr Piggott and his wife signed over their home and stables worth £950,000 to the court. It had taken five and a half hours for Mr Piggott, who spent much of the afternoon in the Newmarket police cells, to free himself.

Even after the court accepted the stables deeds they still insisted they should be signed over by Mrs Piggott as well as her husband.

After being freed, Mr Piggott said in a written statement: "I was very disappointed to be arrested today as, since 1 February 1986, my advisers and myself had spent thousands of hours getting together all the evidence that was sought by Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise with a view to settling my affairs. This evidence was made available to the

Stalker decides to quit the force

By Ian Smith Northern Correspondent

Mr John Stalker, the disillusioned Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, is quitting the force just three months after successfully clearing his professional and personal reputation.

He has formally applied to retire in March, at least eight years earlier than he had planned to leave the force. He is aged 47.

At his brother's wedding in London yesterday, Mr Stalker said: "I am not a broken man - it's simply that my family don't want me to be a policeman any more."

"I could have put my head down and ignored all the difficulties at work, still doing the job as a professional. But it was killing me to come home and see my wife Stella so upset. I have seen my mother turn from being a sprightly lady into an old woman."

Mr Stalker was removed as head of an inquiry into allegations that the Royal Ulster Constabulary was operating a shoot-to-kill policy, and had to clear himself of allegations that he had associated with known Manchester criminals.

He said yesterday: "I am not going to wash any dirty linen in public unless somebody else starts it. There is no way I am going out as a bitter man."

This was a carefully considered decision involving all my family. It is true to say that I did not intend to retire for at least another eight years, on consideration though I have reappraised my situation and decided to go after 30 years' service like most policemen do."

It is understood that Mr Stalker was bitterly upset that he was not informed in advance of the timing of Myra Hindley's return to Saddleworth moor on Tuesday, particularly as he was one of only three serving members in the Manchester force involved in the original investigation.

It is believed that his resignation was accepted by Chief Constable Mr James Anderson without any attempt made to change his mind. Recently the emotional strain on Mr Stalker became so great that on doctor's orders he took two weeks off work and told how the sustained pressure of the inquiry had taken its toll on his entire family, including his wife Stella, aged 43, and their two daughters.

Mrs Stalker said that her husband had become a changed man who had lost weight and confidence in his future.

One of the most worrying burdens he has had to carry is the £21,000 legal fees incurred in the long struggle to clear his name.

Continued on Page 20, col 8

Brent ghetto fear of Asian governor

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The school governor whose allegedly racist activities are now to be investigated by Brent council is an Asian who fears that the council's policies are turning his neighbourhood and his children's school into a "ghetto".

Mr Haleem Hasani says the council suspects him of having put pressure on Miss Maureen McGoldrick, the headteacher of Sudbury Infants School, not to employ any more black or Asian teachers.

On Thursday night the council decided, on legal advice, to drop its proceedings against Miss McGoldrick but said it would investigate the conduct of "certain governors and parents".

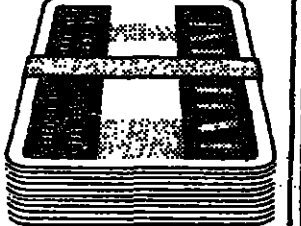
Mr Hasani said yesterday: "I understand they mean me. But I am ready for them. I do not feel guilty. I spoke the truth and I do not regret anything that I have said."

Mr Hasani estimates that about half the teachers at Sudbury are black or Asian, as are about 85 per cent of the children. "I have never objected to black teachers, what I complained about was really a managerial issue: there was a problem about how they were distributed."

"But then they gagged me. They tried to sweep the issue under the carpet. Nobody came forward to support me because they were afraid..."

Continued on page 20, col 4

Monday Trouble in store



The High Street spending boom has been fuelled by ever-easier credit. But how easily do little store cards lead to big financial problems?

Portfolio £28,000 to be won

There is £28,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - £24,000 in the weekly competition as there has been no winner for the past two weeks, plus the daily prize of £4,000.

The £4,000 prize yesterday was won by Mrs Christine Catchpole, of Forest Row, East Sussex. Details, page 3.

Portfolio lists, pages 20 and 25.

IMF task

M Michel Camdessus, the new managing director of the International Monetary Fund, faces a tough task in unifying the agency.

No standing

FIFA, the governing body of world football, hopes to eliminate hooliganism from the 1994 World Cup by allowing seated spectators only Page 34

Sailor lost Jacques de Roux, a Frenchman competing in the single-handed round-the-world race, is missing, feared drowned, after his yacht was found unmanned south of Sydney Page 34

Iran deal prosecutor appointed

From Michael Binyon Washington

A special three-judge court yesterday named a 74-year-old former judge and diplomat as the independent prosecutor to conduct a criminal investigation of the Iran arms affair.

Judge Lawrence Walsh, a prominent attorney who was the deputy US negotiator at the Vietnam peace talks in Paris, is formally known as an independent counsel.

Like the special Watergate prosecutors, Mr Archibald Cox and Mr Leon Jaworski, he has full power of prosecution. He can make criminal indictments if he finds any laws were broken in the secret sale of arms to Iran and the diversion of some of the profits to the Nicaraguan Contras.

His investigation is likely to take up to a year. Under strong pressure from Congress and public opinion, an initially reluctant President Reagan announced his request to a court to appoint an independent counsel early this month.

Judge Walsh is one of the outstanding lawyers of the nation and brings to this very broad investigation into whether there has been a violation of any federal criminal law by any person in the Iran-Contra affair the judgement and ability acquired through years of experience as a prosecutor, federal judge, government official, trial lawyer and as a recognized leader of the bar of the nation," the court said.

Meese evidence, page 5

Whitehall inquiry to end soon

By Colin Narborough

The investigation into the possible abuse of privileged, market-moving information by civil servants could be completed quickly. The Government is believed to have a good idea of where the sources of leaks are to be found.

The Stock Exchange's ability to monitor electronically suspicious share price movements is understood to have played a key part in the decision by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade and Industry Secretary, to investigate the very officials responsible for fair competition in business.

His decision to appoint outside inspectors to follow up allegations by officials at the DTI, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Office of Fair Trading, followed the spate of insider dealings on both sides of the Atlantic.

They are expected to focus on the DTI's divisions dealing with competition policy and mergers, and on the OFT mergers secretariat.

DTI officials refused to say how many civil servants would be involved. Information was available to a broad cross-section of the DTI's 13,000 staff, from junior clerical workers upwards.

Spokesmen for the departments whose officials are under investigation said they were unaware of any suspensions or dismissals linked with the investigation.

Leading article, page 17

'£23m loss' warning

Washington - Shareholders in Guinness stand to lose about £23 million, a third of the £70 million the company invested in the partnership of Mr Ivan Boesky, the disgraced arbitrageur, according to Wall Street analysts (Bailey Morris writes).

The calculations, a new blow to the troubled Guinness company and to its chairman, Mr Ernest Saunders, came as a new storm of controversy

erupted yesterday over the United States Government's settlement with Mr Boesky.

Mr Boesky claims that Wall Street estimates of potential losses are too high.

US officials confirmed that Mr Boesky was allowed to remain with his company, Ivan F Boesky & Co LP, until April 1, 1988, a critically important date.

Boesky £70m, page 21

Boxer in clear over drug test

By John Goodbody

Tim Witherspoon did not fail drug tests for marijuana before and after his World Boxing Association heavy-weight title defeat on December 12 by James "Bonecrusher" Smith.

Mr Jose Torres, the chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, said yesterday: "It was a clerical error. Somebody made a critical error in putting 'positive' when it should have been negative. I called Witherspoon at 1.30 am and apologized. He said he appreciated me calling him."

Mr Edward Grayson, author of Sport and the Law, said Witherspoon would be entitled to "almost record damages".

Clerical error, page 34

Greeks and Turks in border clash

From Mario Modiano Athens

A Greek soldier, aged 19, was reported killed and another injured yesterday in a shooting incident between Greek and Turkish Army border patrols along the River Evros, which marks the frontier between the two countries.

According to the Greek account, a patrol spotted five Turkish soldiers in Greek territory east of Ferrai and ordered them to halt. The Turkish soldiers opened fire, killing one and injuring a second Greek soldier. A Turkish report claimed the exchange took place in Turkish territory and resulted in the death of a Turkish lieutenant and a soldier.

Chorus of anger at theatre grant cuts

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

The axe of threatened Arts Council cash cuts has fallen principally on the national theatre and opera companies, provoking a chorus of dismay and concern about their survival.

Under the council allocations announced yesterday, the National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company will receive no increase in their grants next year - effectively a substantial cut in real terms.

was granted a stay of execution, pending discussions on longer-term funding, but it is unlikely to fare much better than the ENO.

In accordance with the council's regional development policy, arts bodies in Scotland, Wales and the English regions were spared the worst of the cutbacks.

Mr Luke Rittner, secretary-general of the Arts Council, blamed inadequate government funding and said many organizations would have to use all their ingenuity and management skills to stay in business.

"Some of our companies face the prospect of alarming deficits if, on a diminishing income, they are to meet the continuing demand for their activities."

He believed large companies could cope with financial difficulties more easily than some of the smaller ones.

Mr Rittner said the council had begun discussions with Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, on a proposal to establish three-year funding arrangements to replace the current annual grant system. In the meantime, he had ordered an immediate review of overhead expenditure by the regional arts associations, and by the Arts Council itself.

Exquisite Designer Furs advertisement with image of a woman in a fur coat.

Now At Up To 80% Off advertisement for furs, listing various styles and prices.

Home News 3-4 Law Report 29 Overseas 5-7 Letters 17 Apps 18,23 Obituary 18 Arts 8 Parliament 18 Births, deaths, marriages 19 Sale Rooms 18 Bridge 11 Science 18 Business 21-25 Services 19 Chess 11 Sport 29-32,34 Court 18 TV & Radio 33 Crosswords 12,20 Universities 38 Diary 16 Weather 20 Features 9-16 Wills 18

TV staff vote to strike over pay

Two Sikhs found guilty of plotting to murder Gandhi

The Sikh ringleader and an accomplice in a plot to assassinate Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, during his official visit to Britain 15 months ago, were found guilty at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday of conspiracy to murder.

Jarnail Singh Ranuana, aged 46, the former owner of a cash and carry store, who led the conspiracy, and Sukvinder Singh Gill, aged 30, a dyer, both of Leicester, will be sentenced today.

They were convicted of conspiring to murder Mr Gandhi and soliciting two undercover policemen to kill the Indian prime minister. Ranuana was also convicted of possessing a .38 Smith and Wesson revolver and supplying heroin.

The jury deliberated for 18 hours and spent two nights in an hotel before unanimously

convicting Ranuana after a trial lasting nine weeks.

Two hours later it convicted Gill on a 10 to one majority verdict. One juror was missing because of illness.

A third Sikh, Parmatma Singh Marwaha, aged 44, a jeans manufacturer from Leicester, and British treasurer of the International Sikh Youth Federation, was found not guilty of conspiracy and soliciting.

Marwaha sagged as the not guilty verdict was returned and in the street outside there were emotional scenes as he hugged turbaned supporters and said, through his solicitor: "I am so pleased to be freed."

Mr Justice McCullough said he would consider the question of deportation when passing sentence today on Gill, who came to Britain in 1978 and is still an Indian national.

Gill, a father of two and a member of the youth federa-

tion, was said by his supporters to be facing a "death warrant" if he was returned to India because of his campaigning for an independent Sikh state.

All three men had denied the charges. Gill told the court he spoke no English and had no idea what was going on when Ranuana attempted to hire two "IRA gunmen" to kill Mr Gandhi.

The "gunmen" were undercover policemen, who thwarted the plot.

The court had been told that Ranuana, a father of four, was arrested under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in October 1985 after an underworld informer, identified in court only as John, tipped off police about the plot.

As a result, the undercover policemen played the role of IRA killers for hire and secretly tape-recorded details of Ranuana's conspiracy.

Police help informer to hide

By Craig Seton

The underworld informer who tipped off detectives about a plot by British Sikhs to assassinate Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, has gone into hiding, with police help.

Police said that the informer's life had been threatened after he warned them that militant Sikhs planned to murder Mr Gandhi during his official visit to England in October 1985.

The tip-off led to the arrest of several Sikhs in Leicester, including the "ringleader", Jarnail Singh Ranuana, aged 46, who was fooled by an elaborate police undercover operation.

He was said to have received inside information from the Indian High Commission in London about Mr Gandhi's itinerary, including meetings with the Prime Minister and the Prince of Wales. But, the two "IRA gunmen" Ranuana tried to hire for £60,000 to carry out the assassination were undercover policemen.

In the trial at Birmingham Crown Court, the defence accused the policemen of acting as agent provocateurs to encourage a crime that otherwise would not have been

committed. Counsel said that it was "set-up" by the "unscrupulous" informer, who was awaiting trial on serious charges and wanted a soft sentence in return for helping the police.

Mr Justice McCullough ruled that the informer's real name and the identities of the policemen should remain secret because of fears for their safety. The policemen were referred to as Tom Band Ian S and the informer as John.

When Tom B met Ranuana he pretended to be the IRA killer of Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Northern Ireland killed by a bomb at the Commons in 1979.

The police bugged a room at the Post House Hotel, Leicester, where Tom B met Ranuana. He told Ranuana: "I want you to understand you are asking me to terminate a head of state. You are not talking about some simple crime, but the biggest form of criminal offence a man can get caught up in."

Police doubts about Ranuana's plan disappeared when he produced a shortened .38 Smith and Wesson revolver and 17 rounds of

ammunition. The police have never discovered where he got it.

Ranuana boasted that the £60,000 fee was "peanuts" and bank slips showed the money seemed to be available. Ranuana, a father of four, was a director of a Peterborough cash and carry business, who came to England in 1958.

He lived in Belgrave, the Sikh area of Leicester where the International Sikh Youth Federation was a hotbed of militant protest against the Indian government.

Militant Sikhs swore vengeance on Mr Gandhi for the storming by Indian troops in 1984 of their holy shrine, the Golden Temple of Amritsar, in Punjab and the death of the Sikh spiritual leader, Sant Bhindranath.

Ranuana was exposed when he sought underworld help in the planned killing and disclosed his plot to John, the informer, in a public house. The role of John was a central issue in the trial.

When John was convicted of stealing at his own trial and sent to prison, senior officers expressed their concern for his safety. They arranged a new address for him when he was released.

Drug may fight side effects

By a Staff Reporter

A drug is being developed which could transform treatment for mental disorders such as schizophrenia and anxiety and prove effective against the side effects of nausea and vomiting linked with cancer treatment.

First details of the drug, developed by Glaxo under the code name, GR38032F, were reported yesterday at the British Pharmaceutical Society meeting in London.

The company emphasizes that the compound is at a very early stage of development, but says it may prove a milestone in the treatment of diseases of the central nervous system.

Present treatments for anxiety including drugs such as Valium, often have marked side-effects including sedation and addiction.

With schizophrenia, drugs often provoke a Parkinson's reaction, with severe shakiness and unco-ordinated movements.

Anti-cancer drugs, particularly cisplatin, cause distressing nausea and vomiting.

The new compound, which is based on a synthetic compound of "unique molecular structure" is the result of 10 years of research.

Tests on animals started in 1983 and the company has started clinical trials on humans, but it will take several years before it is known whether the achievements indicated by the animal research can be realized in humans.

Glaxo researchers claim that they have discovered for the first time a sub-type of 5-hydroxytryptamine receptors. The new compound blocks these receptors and one result is a fine tuning of other major neurotransmitter systems that affect physiological functions.

Animal studies have shown that GR38032F can control overactivity in the brain system, thought to be responsible for symptoms of schizophrenia.

Signs of success in war on heroin

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The United Kingdom is on course to turn back the heroin tide, according to Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office.

Addict notifications have shown a smaller increase and customs and excise provisional figures for 1986, to be released next month, will indicate heroin seizures have been significantly lower than in 1985.

The purity of heroin seized when entering the country has fallen, while street prices show a slight rise.

"Taken together," Mr Mellor said, "these separate indicators may well mean some reduction in the availability of heroin here. At the same time some treatment agencies are beginning to report a levelling off in heroin referrals."

During the first year of the Government's anti-heroin advertising, independent evaluation has found that the proportion of young people who said they would reject an offer of heroin has risen from 83 per cent to 94 per cent.

"None of this means we can afford to be complacent," Mr Mellor said. He was commenting on figures for notified addicts in the UK in 1985, published yesterday. They meant that while the fight against heroin was far from

being won, there was welcome evidence that the growth of the problem was slowing.

In 1983, addict notifications increased by 42 per cent and in 1984 by 26 per cent. In 1985 notifications of new addicts rose by 20 per cent.

Mr Mellor, who is chairman of the Ministerial Group on the Misuse of Drugs, said: "No one, of course, pretends these notifications, 90 per cent of which are for heroin addiction, represent the total number of drug dependants in the UK. They are only a limited proportion of the true figure. But they do provide an important indicator."

Even if the heroin problem was moving towards its peak, as was hoped, that was at far too high a level. The cocaine threat must not be underestimated either, and the growth of amphetamine misuse was a serious cause for concern.

The anti-drug strategy is being further intensified, including the tough confiscation provisions of the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986, which will be in force in the next few weeks.

Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Statistics for Drug Addicts Notified to the Home Office, United Kingdom 1985; (Statistical Department, Home Office, Lunnar Lane, Croydon, Surrey CR9 9YD; £2.50).

Police to visit mother of girl found strangled

Murder squad detectives investigating the strangulation of a girl aged seven are expected to interview her mother at Skegness, Lincolnshire, today in an attempt to find a motive for the killing.

Nicola Spencer was found dead at a flat in Grosvenor Road, Skegness, by a male friend of her mother, Christine, who was out drinking.

A post mortem examination yesterday by Home Office pathologist Professor Alan

Usher showed the cause of death, but further tests were being carried out to establish if she had been sexually assaulted.

The girl was left on her own asleep shortly before 9pm on Thursday. A friend of the mother returned less than two hours later to fetch an inhaler and found the girl dead.

Det Supt Tom Coates, head of North Lincolnshire CID, said: "At this stage I can't say whether a weapon was used"

Happier 'holy hour' for Ireland's drinkers

By Paul Vallely

Theologians have long taken account of the possibility that the Irish, for all their piety, misunderstood the parable of the repentant publican.

The licensees of Dublin, it must be admitted, have for the past 60 years been religious in their observance of the "holy hour", the time of rest between three and four o'clock in the afternoon when they have retired behind their shutters

and refused to serve alcohol to anyone.

Whether the discrepancy between this and the Vatican's somewhat more prayerful notion of a Holy Hour has been pointed out to the Irish government is not clear. At any rate it has now decided to abandon it.

Moves to liberalize drinking conditions in the Irish Republic, in an attempt to make the

country more attractive to tourists, were outlined by Dr Garret FitzGerald's government in a national plan two years ago.

The new measure will affect the drinkers of Cork as well as Dublin. Elsewhere in the republic the hour (which naturally enough lasted for two hours on Sunday) is not observed. But the entire nation will be affected by plans to



Jolly marking 30 years' tea parties yesterday with champagne (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Chimps go for bubbly at party

Jolly, an expert tea-drinker, discarded her cup for champagne yesterday to celebrate 30 years of chimpanzee television commercials.

The one-hundredth television advertisement for Brooke Bond, in what is thought to be Britain's longest-running campaign, is to be shown on Boxing Day.

The PG Tips chimpanzees have been appearing on television since 1956, acting as yachtsmen, removal men, Tour de France cyclists, and even as James Bond, the spy fiction character, introducing himself with the words: "My name is Bond... Brooke Bond."

The "chimps' champagne party, held at the London Weekend Television studios, included five former voices from the series: Peter Jones, Kenneth Connor, Robin Bailey, John Junkin and Cass Allen.

Robin Bailey said yesterday: "I find it a great privilege to work with chimps: they are so full of life and character." His voice is used in one of the newest advertisements, showing a chimpanzee as a retired bank manager.

John Junkin, whose voice is heard in a number of the advertisements, served the champagne to Jolly, and said: "She certainly seems to like it."

Miss Molly Badham, director of Twycroft Zoo, Jolly's home in Leicestershire, said: "Our chimps really do adore tea, but they drink it in buckets, not in cups."

Twycroft used to provide all the PG Tips chimpanzees, but yesterday Mr Tony Toller, a scriptwriter, said that the latest series of advertisements was filmed in Italy using Italian chimpanzees.

Loft cash will be restricted to the needy

The Government yesterday announced a widespread cut-back in its roof insulation scheme (One Property Correspondent writes).

Mr John Patten, Housing Minister, said in a written Commons reply that legislation on insulation grants would restrict them to people on benefit and end the present general 66 per cent grant.

Mr Patten announced, however, that a further £1.5 million was being made available this financial year for English councils which have already used up their allocations.

He said that almost 90 per cent of the accessible roofs in England were now insulated,

allow public houses and bars to stay open until midnight during the summer months.

In a sop to potential protesters, the government has said that it will also be tightening regulations against under age drinking. The measure detailing the reforms, the Intoxicating Liquor Bill, is expected to go through parliament without serious opposition.

Search of moors is abandoned for winter

Bad weather has forced police to call off their operation on Saddleworth Moor in Greater Manchester, where they have been searching for the bodies of further victims of the moors murderers. Myra Hindley and Ian Brady, for the past four weeks.

As blizzards swept the search area, yesterday, the man leading the hunt for the bodies of two missing children, Det Chief Supt Peter Topping, said that when they returned, in the spring, they would start digging at places pointed out by Myra Hindley who had been allowed out of jail recently to assist the search.

The decision to call off the operation came as the key witness in the trial of Hindley and Brady, more than 20 years ago, was brought back to Saddleworth Moor to help police in the search.

Hindley's former brother-in-law, Mr David Smith, aged 38, who called police in after watching Edward Evans, aged 17, being axed to death by Brady, in an unmarked police car, after spending half an hour talking to Mr Topping in the search incident room.

Mr Topping said: "His visit has been useful. Just exactly what he has done I am not prepared to discuss."

Mr Smith, who often accompanied the pair on to the moor above Oldham as a teenager, was driven slowly past Hollin Brown Knoll, near where the bodies of Leslie Ann Downey, aged 10, and John Kilbridge, aged 12, were found in shallow graves.

The area is believed to have been the second identified by Hindley during her visit from Cookham Wood Prison on Tuesday, when she spent seven hours on the moor.

Portfolio Gold - Solace for parking ticket

A teacher of English was the sole winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000. Mrs Christine Catchpole, aged 41, from Forest Row in East Sussex, has played the Portfolio Gold game for the past 10 months.

"It is quite unbelievable," she said. "At first everything conspired against me. The newspaper did not deliver *The Times* this morning, so I had to look for another copy while on a shopping trip in Eastbourne."

"But before I had time to check my numbers, I received a £14 traffic ticket. So I still can't believe I have won," she said.

When asked how she intended spending the prize money, Mrs Catchpole said: "Apart from paying the parking fine, I'll now be able to buy all the Christmas presents I had dreamed about."

Readers who wish to play the game can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold, The Times, PO Box 40, Blackburn, BB1 6AJ.

Jasmine case social worker wins damages

The social worker who lost her job for "gross misconduct" in the Jasmine Beckford case was unfairly dismissed by Brent Council, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

But Mrs Diane Dietmann will not be reinstated by Brent Social Services, because she did not immediately challenge her dismissal.

Mr Justice Hodgson ruled that she had thereby accepted it. He awarded her damages for wrongful dismissal which will amount to 16 weeks' wages.

The judge said that Mrs Dietmann, of Tudor Well Close, Stanmore, north-west London, was "deeply shocked" when she was dismissed in December last year after an inquiry report which accused her of gross negligence.

He said that while gross negligence may be the same as gross misconduct in law, he could not say the same for her contract, which allowed dismissal only for gross misconduct.

Brent council is considering an appeal.

Triple swap woman 'stable'

By Jill Sherman

Mrs Davina Thompson, the world's first triple transplant patient, showed signs of regaining consciousness yesterday, two days after the operation in which she was given a new heart, lungs and liver.

She is said to be in a "satisfactory and stable" condition, still at Papworth Hospital, Cambridgeshire, where the operation was performed.

"She is not fully conscious but she is regaining consciousness," a spokesman for East Anglia Regional Health Authority said yesterday. "Her husband has been into see her again today and her mother and father-in-law have waved to her through the glass

door of her room in the intensive care unit."

Stephanie, aged nine, who arrived at the hospital on Thursday, has still not been allowed to visit her mother because there is a greater risk of infection from children.

It could be a few days before Mrs Thompson fully regains consciousness. All non-urgent operations were cancelled yesterday at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, where a dangerous bacteria resistant to antibiotics, has infected four patients in the intensive care unit.

The bacteria known as MSRA - or Methicillin-resis-

tant staphylococcus aureus - is a wound infection which affects patients who have undergone severe surgical procedures. "It could delay their recovery and can be quite dangerous if it is not treated properly as the patients are very weak," the hospital unit's general manager, Mr David Astley, said.

A man aged 22, and his mother, are recovering in Cardiff Royal Infirmary after he was given one of her kidneys in a three-hour operation yesterday.

Mrs Joyce Riddell said she could not stand watching her son, Mr Jeff Jones, suffering any longer from his kidney disease.

TO LAUNCH YOU ON YOUR FIRST QE2 CRUISE, WE'VE PUT TOGETHER A VERY SPECIAL PACKAGE.

Perhaps you've dreamt about taking a cruise on the QE2 but there's a far as it goes. Just a dream. Because like a lot of people you probably thought a cruise on such a world-famous ship was a pleasure reserved for the very rich. That is someone who actually has to work for a living, you'd be the odd one out.

Or maybe you thought there'd be nothing in doing it apart from sitting in a deck chair, staring at the ocean and counting the seagulls.

Well, if that's what you thought, a QE2 Newcomers cruise will make you think again. These cruises:

- to such exciting places as Madeira and Lisbon and you'll realise the value is quite outstanding.
- SPECIAL ENJOYMENT You'll find the problem on board is not how to while away the hours but rather to find enough hours to enjoy all
- SPECIAL NEWCOMERS CRUISES With four QE2 Newcomers cruises to choose from, you're spoiled for choice. May 10, Visiting Madeira and Tenerife. 7 days from £495. May 30, Visiting Lisbon and Corunna. 5 days from £395. July 20, Visiting Lisbon, Praia da Rocha, and Gibraltar. 6 days from £391. September 20, Visiting Madeira and Tenerife. 7 days from £495.
- SPECIAL FREE BOOKLET If sailing away from it all, relaxing in luxury, seeing new fires and exciting places all sounds great, why not find out more? We've produced the Newcomers Packet Guide to Cruising to help you do just that. It's a concise booklet that will answer all those other questions you have in mind. It's available free from Cunard (telephone 01-491 5970) and at your travel agent. Or just complete the coupon below and post it to the address shown. It could launch you on the holiday of a lifetime.
- SPECIAL NEWCOMERS PACKAGE. We make sure every passenger on a QE2 cruise feels special. But for Newcomers we really push the boat out. Just look at the package we've laid on - just for you:
 - Free first-class rail travel to and from London/Southampton or free parking at Southampton
 - Your own courier
 - Tipping method
 - A Newcomers' champagne party to make new friends
 - A free short-cruise
 - Special trouble-free check-in
 - Sitting with other Newcomers in the restaurants
 - A duty free bottle of spirit for each adult.
- SPECIAL VALUE So you thought the price of a cruise aboard the QE2 would be beyond your reach, right? Wrong. Our QE2 Newcomers cruises start from £495 per person and that includes your beautifully appointed cabin, all meals and gratuities. Compare that to the cost of a holiday in a five star hotel in just one location and the value already looks excellent. But if you add the fact that your Cunard floating hotel will carry you in supreme five-star comfort

Please send me a free copy of the Newcomers Packet Guide to Cruising.

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

Tel. No. _____

Post to: Cunard British Overseas Services, Park Farm Road, Falmouth, Cornwall CT19 3UZ.

QE2 NEWCOMERS CRUISES 1987

Two devised blind spot for computer fraud pack

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

An anonymous tip-off two years ago led customs investigators to two men who yesterday received suspended sentences for the first computerized VAT fraud to be detected in the EEC.

But for that information the secret ingredient in an otherwise innocent stock-taking and accounting software system called Movieman might have cost the Treasury millions.

Raymond Atkinson, aged 38, a certified accountant, of Deacons Bank, Westington, Derbyshire, and Geoffrey Allsop, aged 36, a systems analyst, of Manor View, Westington, both admitted conspiracy to incite the commission of false accounting.

They were each given nine months' jail sentences suspended for two years and each fined £1,000.

Judge Davidson told them at Derby Crown Court: "I am bound to treat fraud of this kind as a very serious matter."

"It is very easy to see in this age of potential electronic fraud that devices could be placed into future programmes that could result in very substantial losses to the public purse and enrich those involved."

The two were convicted for developing a secret "patch" within the system which allowed a customer to hide part of what he earned each day so that VAT inspectors, auditors and the Inland Revenue were given a false impression of earnings.

When customs investigators working on the investigation, codenamed Operation Patchwork, moved in last year, only 12 retailers were using the secret system, defrauding about £100,000, but the potential for greater damage existed.

Investigators believe that Movieman is an augury of future fraud. Mr Michael Newsom, a senior customs officer, said: "We think this case is typical of the type of fraud we will be facing in the computer age."

"In the past fraudsters used a little black book to record their fraudulent dealings. Today the computer can be used."

The case, he said, had

opened up a new area and "brings us with a jolt into the computer fraud age."

Movieman was born in the offices of a small computer firm called Micro-computer Services, based at Alfreton, Derbyshire.

Williams, an accountant, ran the sales side of the business while Allsop was involved in computer techniques. A graduate, he was trained in computers by British Rail at Derby before moving into his own work.

The two men put together a software package aimed at video recording hire shops. The package, priced at about £5,000, gave shops a system which kept stock records, monitored the hire of films and noted accounts. The retailer could tell which were his most successful films and who were his best customers.

Many of the 120 firms who bought the package were not told about the extra facility that lay within the package. The computer firm's salesmen - given immunity against prosecution by the crown - were told to bring the secret feature into play if they had a susceptible customer or a sale might be lost.

The suppression feature came into play when a user was consulting the computer menu for reporting sales. Using one password the user would be given a true record of the day's sales. A second password brought the suppression factor into play.

Customs investigators were alerted in November 1984. The tip came from someone who had heard the packages being offered. Routine VAT inspections were mounted on retailers using the package and investigators took one of the packages for examination by a special computer audit unit.

It took them two weeks to break through the code which kept fraudulent information locked away.

In February last year 80 customs officers and computer experts carried out a series of raids on video hire shops and the computer firm.

Nine companies using the fraudulent system were dealt with by customs commissioners without going to court. They were fined a total of £34,487.

Ex-MI5 chief wins damages for book libel

Mr Charles Simkins, a former deputy director general of MI5, won libel damages in the High Court yesterday over allegations that he leaked secrets to Nigel West, the author.

The allegations were made by another author, Phillip Knightley, in his book on spying, *The Second Oldest Profession*.

Mr Desmond Browne, for Mr Simkins, told Mr Justice Drake that he was asked after he retired to prepare a history of security during the last war for the Cabinet. Mr Knightley suggested that he was bitter about it not being published generally and had got together with Mr West, and leaked a copy of his manuscript. That was untrue, the court was told.

Mr Simkins had not met Mr West and had not given him any first hand knowledge of MI5's activities. Mr Knightley and his publishers acknowledged the allegations were mistaken and agreed to apologize and pay undisclosed damages and legal costs.

Ex-Beatle in court victory over £260,000

The former Beatle, Ringo Starr, won a court battle yesterday which will save him paying almost £260,000 extra maintenance to his former wife, Maureen, from whom she was divorced in 1975.

The Court of Appeal in London overruled a High Court order, made in July, back-dating an increase in the musician's annual maintenance payments to April 1979.

Lords Justices Pehas, Neill and Balcombe held that £70,000 a year - £1,346 a week - was not an unreasonable figure to expect. The musician had "behaved with outstanding generosity and patience towards his wife."

However, they ruled that the increase - £26,000 higher than the annual £44,000 he had been paying since 1981 and £47,000 higher than his original maintenance order of £23,000 - should be back-dated only to April this year.

The decision means that he faces back payment of about £19,500.



Phil Murdin, a stonecarver from Guildford, Surrey, surrounded by grinning gargoyles in the English Heritage workshop at Vauxhall, south London, where 18 of the medieval carved figures, each with individual features, are being produced by the Property Services Agency for the Edward III tower at Windsor Castle, to replace the badly weathered originals (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Two freed on drugs charges

Two men accused of being drug suppliers walked free from court yesterday after allegations of corruption were made against a senior Scotland Yard detective.

Michael West and James O'Loughlin were arrested while allegedly trying to set up a cocaine deal to trap a drugs pusher. They claimed the operation was organized with undercover police to trap a cocaine dealer called "Diego" who was said to have disappeared after their arrest.

During the trial at Southwark Crown Court it was claimed that Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin were set up by Scotland Yard's senior operational detective, Det Supt Anthony Lundy.

Less than a month ago Det Supt Lundy was the subject of corruption allegations made during a television documentary. He is now being investigated by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire about his relationship with a "supergrass" called Roy Garner.

Yesterday the jury took two hours to return unanimous not guilty verdicts on Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin who each denied possessing a total of 2.6 kilograms of cocaine, with intent to supply, on November 27 last year.

During the trial, defence counsel for Mr West, Mr Michael West, QC, claimed another "supergrass" controlled by Mr Lundy had first introduced the idea of the drug deal trap for "Diego".

Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin were to arrange a deal, with undercover police officers posing as buyers, to establish their credentials. The undercover detectives were wired with tape recorders and the deal was captured on video cameras.

Mr West's counsel told the jury that the video tapes and transcripts had been edited in an attempt to convict Mr West and Mr O'Loughlin.

Mr West, QC, told the court that his client and Mr O'Loughlin, who were both on remand in Wormwood Scrubs Prison, were visited four times by an informer called Geoffrey Stack, who worked with Mr Lundy and proposed the trap.

Mr Lundy denied the allegation. He told the court: "I have never met Stack - and wouldn't know him if he walked in now."

Referring to the television documentary Mr West, QC, said: "The accusations in that programme involved your handling of informers. You have split the Metropolitan Police force straight down the middle, between those who believe in you and those who believe you are a thoroughly corrupt officer."

Abortion advice Court rules against clinics

By Richard Ford

Two clinics offering advice to women seeking abortions in Britain are acting illegally, the High Court in Dublin ruled yesterday.

The first test case brought since a clause forbidding abortion was inserted into the constitution ended with two Dublin clinics being told to cease their counselling services from January 12 next year.

The ruling, by Mr Justice Hamilton, president of the High Court, is to be challenged, on appeal, in the Supreme Court by the clinics, who said that the decision was a "sad day in the history of Irish women."

In a 90-minute reserved judgement, the judge backed the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children who brought the case, arguing that the clinics were acting contrary to Irish law which, under section 40 of the written constitution, guarantees the right to life of the unborn.

Mr Justice Hamilton said he was satisfied that Open

Door Counselling and the Well Woman Centre were flouting the constitution by flouting information to pregnant women about abortion clinics operating in Britain.

The case was the first thorough testing of the constitutional amendment forbidding abortion, which was passed by a two to one majority in 1983.

Miss Ruth Riddick, of Open Line Counselling, said afterwards: "I believe the service we provide for Irish women is needed. There would not be a demand for it, if it was not required. One of the problems about this judgement is that it sweeps a social problem under the carpet."

Yesterday's judgement came 24 hours after the European Court of Human Rights said the lack of provision for divorce and remarriage in the republic did not mean it was in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights. But the republic was found to be in breach of the convention because of the inferior legal status given to the children of unmarried parents.

Boy killed bully after £15 threat

The victim of a school bully finally snapped and stabbed to death his tormentor, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Simon Lundy, aged 17, was sentenced to five years' youth custody after admitting the manslaughter of Robert Tucker last July. His plea of not guilty to murder was accepted after the judge was told that Lundy had been provoked.

Both boys attended King Harold School at Waltham Abbey, Essex. "Tucker used to bully the defendant, taking money from him," Mr Timothy Langdale, for the prosecution, said.

At first it was 70p a day lunch money but later Tucker was demanding up to £20, threatening violence.

The day before the stabbing Tucker demanded £15. Lundy, of Rockford Avenue, Waltham Abbey, could not raise the amount. He took a knife when he went to meet Tucker the next day, Lundy's jurist.

"He was very nervous. Tucker told him he was going to sort him out. Lundy lunged forward with the knife. The boy died in hospital from two stab wounds, in the chest and stomach."

Mr Justice Allott, passing sentence, said: "You did a wicked and terrible thing killing someone who may have got over this unattractive aspect of his character and lived a useful life."

Ministry wins test case on trespass

Magistrates decided in July that Mr Bugg, a former policeman, of St Paul's Road, Walton Highways, near Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was not guilty of an offence because the prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the by-laws were valid.

He said the correct approach was for by-laws to be presumed valid until a defendant showed that they were not.

The magistrates had wrongly accepted Mr Bugg's argument that the by-laws were invalid.

Mr Bugg, an individual rights campaigner, had gone on to the base in a deliberate attempt to prove that he had the right to do so.

The test case involved by-laws introduced by Mr Michael Heseltine, the former Secretary of State for Defence, to outlaw protests at Mildenhall and other military bases throughout the country.

Allowing an appeal by Ministry of Defence police, two judges ordered the magistrates to convict Mr John Bugg, aged 49, of entering a protected area in April "other than by way of an authorized entrance", contrary to the by-laws.

Mr Justice Mann said the Office has put the cost per job of the scheme at more than £60,000.

The new survey, presented by a Highland delegation to Lord Cullen, Minister for the Highlands, puts the cost at no more than £24,000. It is the cost per job which is the touchstone for Treasury approval.

Mr David Blair, chief executive of Lochaber District Council, said yesterday that the Government seemed to wish the scheme to go ahead but had to conform to Treasury rules.

The latest evidence by independent consultants, requested by Mr Rifkind, should secure Scottish Office approval.

A statement from Lochaber council yesterday said: "Nothing can stop the ski development and the start of commercial activity next winter except Mr Rifkind, whose consent is now urgently required."

Hospital's gain from extra fund

By Jill Sherman

Guy's Hospital, beset by financial difficulties for the past two years, is likely to be one of the first beneficiaries of the £30 million fund set up by the Government to help London regions.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced yesterday that he had approved a £35 million new building development at the south London teaching hospital and interim arrangements to provide services until it comes into operation in 1994.

The arrangements, which include a 12-bed observation unit and day surgery facilities, are expected to cost £300,000 and be paid for out of the special fund and open early next year.

These will provide vital transitional services so that the closure of another acute hospital in the district, New Cross, can go ahead in May. Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority has planned to concentrate all acute beds on Guy's and Lewisham, dispensing with 338 beds at New Cross.

The new £35 million phase at Guy's will include 275 beds and 90 day places and include a range of supporting departments, teaching and research facilities.

Guy's unit general manager, Mr Nigel Smith, said yesterday that it would do little to resolve the district's financial difficulties, which were largely a result of treating more patients with the same number of beds.

Although allocations to regional health authorities have not been announced, South East Thames Regional Health Authority is confident that it will receive the £500,000 revenue needed to fund the interim services at Guy's and similar observation and day surgery units at neighbouring Lewisham hospital.

Mr Rifkind, who was in his fourth day of custody, was freed yesterday because the sentence amounts to five days with remission, and because the prison has no facilities to release prisoners this Saturday.

Benjamin, a Bermudan-born community worker, decided that he had no intention of giving up the practice. For two years, up to November 17, 1984, he had been in the habit of going to the market and blowing his conch shell.

Although he was acquitted of an alleged assault on the police, said to have happened after his arrest, the judge at Inner London Crown Court jailed him for seven days for refusing to be bound over. The High Court judges offered him 48 hours to decide whether to promise to keep the peace, an offer he rejected.

Benjamin, who was in his fourth day of custody, was freed yesterday because the sentence amounts to five days with remission, and because the prison has no facilities to release prisoners this Saturday.

Benjamin, a Bermudan-born community worker, decided that he had no intention of giving up the practice. For two years, up to November 17, 1984, he had been in the habit of going to the market and blowing his conch shell.

Although he was acquitted of an alleged assault on the police, said to have happened after his arrest, the judge at Inner London Crown Court jailed him for seven days for refusing to be bound over. The High Court judges offered him 48 hours to decide whether to promise to keep the peace, an offer he rejected.

Benjamin, who was in his fourth day of custody, was freed yesterday because the sentence amounts to five days with remission, and because the prison has no facilities to release prisoners this Saturday.

Benjamin, a Bermudan-born community worker, decided that he had no intention of giving up the practice. For two years, up to November 17, 1984, he had been in the habit of going to the market and blowing his conch shell.

Verdict on Hell's Angel is quashed

The High Court yesterday quashed a coroner's verdict of unlawful killing on John Mikkleson, a Hell's Angel, and ordered a new inquest.

Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Roch on the Queen's Bench Divisional Court, said that he reached his decision with "considerable reluctance".

Mikkleson, aged 34, from Windsor, Berkshire, died in police custody after being arrested after a fight at Bedford, Middlesex, in July last year.

He had been hit on the head with a police truncheon, put unconscious in a police van and left on the charge room floor at the police station before being taken to hospital. He died without regaining consciousness.

A jury reached the unlawful killing verdict after an inquest conducted by Dr John Burton, the west London coroner, in March this year.

Eight police officers challenged the verdict after a number of them were suspended from duty. They claimed that the coroner's directions to the jury were "wrong in law, inadequate and confusing".

Lord Justice Watkins agreed that the jury were "gravely misdirected" and could not have been otherwise than confused by what they were told. But he said he had "much sympathy" with the coroner dealing with the case.

The judge ordered a fresh inquest before a different coroner and jury. He said: "I am in no doubt I would have directed the jury that it would be unsafe to find that the arresting officers misconducted themselves in a difficult situation, in any sense whatsoever."

He said it was unthinkable that the jury, who added a rider to their verdict that the killing was due to manslaughter as a result of the degree of care given to the man after he was overpowered, should find that a criminal offence had been committed without being satisfied beyond reasonable doubt.

He declared that the burden of proof necessary to reach such a verdict must be beyond reasonable doubt.

Blowing conch earns jail term for Bermudan

By Kenneth Gosling

Thomas Joe Benjamin's habit of blowing on a conch shell to call a meeting of his friends in Brixton market earned him a seven-day jail sentence yesterday.

Two High Court judges upheld the Inner London Crown Court's ruling that Benjamin must go to prison if he refused to consent to being bound over to the keep the peace.

Benjamin, a Bermudan-born community worker, decided that he had no intention of giving up the practice. For two years, up to November 17, 1984, he had been in the habit of going to the market and blowing his conch shell.

Although he was acquitted of an alleged assault on the police, said to have happened after his arrest, the judge at Inner London Crown Court jailed him for seven days for refusing to be bound over. The High Court judges offered him 48 hours to decide whether to promise to keep the peace, an offer he rejected.

Benjamin, who was in his fourth day of custody, was freed yesterday because the sentence amounts to five days with remission, and because the prison has no facilities to release prisoners this Saturday.

Benjamin, a Bermudan-born community worker, decided that he had no intention of giving up the practice. For two years, up to November 17, 1984, he had been in the habit of going to the market and blowing his conch shell.

Although he was acquitted of an alleged assault on the police, said to have happened after his arrest, the judge at Inner London Crown Court jailed him for seven days for refusing to be bound over. The High Court judges offered him 48 hours to decide whether to promise to keep the peace, an offer he rejected.

Benjamin, who was in his fourth day of custody, was freed yesterday because the sentence amounts to five days with remission, and because the prison has no facilities to release prisoners this Saturday.

Judge retires

Tough justice with a lenient streak

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lord Justice "Fred" Lawton, one of the last of the tough "no nonsense" school of judges feared by hardened criminals, retired yesterday.

More than 40 judges and barristers crowded his courtroom to pay tribute to the grammar school boy who rose to become a senior Court of Appeal judge after being appointed one of the youngest High Court judges at the age of 49.

It was the first time that the two divisions, criminal and civil, of the Court of Appeal had sat together and the occasion was marked by the presence, among many other judges, of the Master of the Rolls, the Lord Chief Justice and the Attorney General.

But the atmosphere yesterday was far from serious. Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, likened Lord Justice Lawton, aged 75, to a Labrador, to which the retiring judge responded that Labradorers with dicey hips were usually put down.

The son of a prison governor - his father was a prison officer and the



Lord Justice Lawton, who retired yesterday

error of Wandsworth - he has often been labelled a "hanging judge". But his toughness against violent criminals has always been tempered by leniency and concern for lesser offenders.

Sending down Charles Richardson for 25 years in 1967, the then Mr Justice Lawton said the south London gang leader was "vicious, sadistic and a disgrace to society" for the way he

crossed his path. He added: "One is ashamed to live in a society that contains men like you."

He has also been well known for robust views on sentencing: in 1971 he called for a national labour corps in which offenders would undertake jobs such as clearing industrial debris. Again, in 1978, he recommended "short, sharp shocks" for young offenders, perhaps in disused Army camps, so they could learn that "bad behaviour results in unpleasant consequences". Nor has he much time for the theories of social workers and penal reformers or what he has called "cosy chats with probation officers".

"Clap-trap" was how he described a psychiatric report on a youth who tried to escape from the High Court in 1979. The youth had an appalling record and had to be dealt with severely, he said.

But the judge has an unexpected reformist streak, and has long ago discarded the political views that almost led him to stand as a Mosleyite candidate in the thirties. He favours non-custodial

penalties where possible. Under his chairmanship, the Criminal Law Revision Committee called for radical reforms, many now in force, to the law on sexual offences. These included a measure against kerb crawling, proposals to deal with those living off organized prostitution, to extend the law of rape to separated husbands and wives and to increase penalties for attempted rape and indecent assault.

Lord Justice Lawton, a large man with thickset features and a measured style of delivery well suited to anecdotes, of which he is fond, did not like most other judges, go to public school. He went to Battersea Grammar School before going on to Cambridge University. He was called to the Bar in 1935, served in the War until the London Irish Rifles until he was invalided out in 1941, resumed his career and took silk in 1957. He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1972.

The judge is likely to be in great demand helping out as retired judges do on civil and criminal appeals, where he will be sitting as Sir Fred Lawton.

December 19 1986 PARLIAMENT

Indian minister's bribe hint

Mr Terence Dicks (Hayes and Harlington, C) said he had been asked for a bribe by the Indian Home Affairs Minister, Mr Buta Singh, when he visited India to try to help a constituent, Mrs Kuldip Kanu, who, he said, had been imprisoned on trumped-up charges.

He had been made to feel as if he had asked for an audience with the Lord and the Minister's opening words to him were: "Have you something for me? A gift?" He had pretended not to know what the minister was talking about and the interview effectively ended then. The Minister had promised to look into the case, about which he claimed to know nothing, and to contact Mr Dicks. He had not done so.

Mrs Kanu's husband, Professor Paul Bedi, was the first Sikh to be elected chairman of the Anglo-Asian Conservative Society in Britain (which was dissolved today). There had been anger among those who defected in that election. It had been alleged that the man who had manipulated that society for many years had contacts in India and it was not surprising that Mrs Kanu was being put under pressure in India just after the election of her husband.

He believed that both the Indian government and the British Foreign Office wanted this issue to die quietly for the sake of Anglo-Indian relations.

The behaviour of the corrupt government in India had been nothing short of appalling. Perhaps Britain should stop giving aid to India.

Was the Foreign Office going to act? The British Government should intervene at the top level.

Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said she greatly regretted some of the language Mr Dicks had seen fit to use when referring to the Indian government and the legal processes in that Commonwealth country.

She firmly rejected his suggestion that the British Government or the Foreign Office was unsympathetic to the welfare of British citizens abroad or of the hard-working Sikh community in Britain.

Mrs Kanu had been charged under India's anti-terrorism laws and her case, which had been handled in a manner which was fully in accordance with the legal procedures in India, must be heard by the Indian courts.

As a UK citizen, she had been given the normal consular assistance.

Publicity did not always pay in such cases. Often a low-key approach had resolved problems when public acrimony had

only aggravated the problem. These were sensitive matters and people should reflect very hard before making any intemperate statements.

The remarks Mr Dicks had made about aid to India were unworthy. The aid programme helped thousands of poor and needy people.

Comments that he had made previously, and repeated today, about Indian ministers had caused grave offence. Such comments would not help the cause of his constituent or the thousands of moderate Sikhs in Britain.

Mr Timothy Renton, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had discussed Mrs Kanu's case very fully with the High Commission and he was satisfied that everything possible was being done to help her.

His attack on an Indian minister would make the authorities close ranks and could delay rather than expedite a decision in this case.

Five projects for homeless

A scheme allowing local authorities extra resources and expertise to bring empty dwellings back into use for homeless families is to effect outside London for the first time.

Mr Richard Tracey, Under Secretary of State for Environment, said, referring to the Estates Action Unit: "We have approved projects for five authorities at South Tyneside, York, Wokingham, Rushmore and Milton Keynes."

This involves extra resources of £14 million, with 130 dwellings being brought back into use for the homeless.

Prison officers are 'against fresh start' If the Home Office tried to impose the conditions on prison officers outlined in its policy document *A Fresh Start* it would cause increasing bitterness and mass resignations from the service, Mr Thomas Cox (Totting, Lab) said. Prison officers believed it would lead to compulsory overtime.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State, Home Office, said the Prison Officers' Association had a vested interest in preserving existing working practices but prison governors must have the flexibility to make better use of resources, both staff and money.

WORLD SUMMARY

Karachi rioters lynch policeman

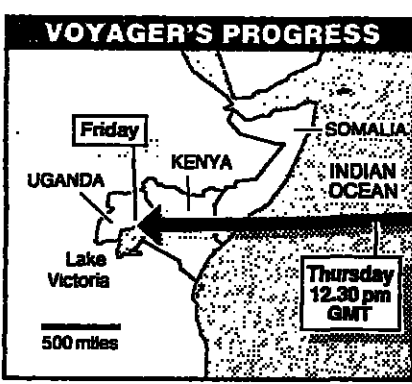
Karachi (Reuters) - Rioters lynched a policeman and badly injured four other officers after setting fire to their car in a suburb of strife-torn Karachi early yesterday.

Falkland Consular fishing access

The Falkland Islands Government Office has completed its international selection of trawlermen to be allowed to fish around the islands.

Voyager over Kenya

Nairobi (Reuters) - The experimental aircraft Voyager has passed safely over Kenya on the sixth day of its non-stop round the world flight.



Meese gives more secret evidence

From Michael Binyon, Washington Mr Edwin Meese, the US Attorney-General, yesterday gave further in camera testimony to the House intelligence committee.

The senators, who heard the secret testimony in a protected room and have sworn not to reveal any details, heard from more than 30 witnesses, including senior figures from the White House, the National Security Council (NSC), the Pentagon, State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency.

However, frustrated senators were unable to get the key figures in the arms scandal to testify - Vice-Admiral John Poindexter and Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, who were formerly at the NSC, and General Richard Secord, who has retired.

Other issues still to be clarified are whether Colonel North acted on his own or with higher approval. The roles of his associates, in and out of government, are still unclear.



Family reunion for the American mercenary, Mr Eugene Hasenfus, with his sons Adam, left, and Gene on arriving in Green Bay, Wisconsin, after his release from jail in Nicaragua.

Iran says US paid hostage ransom

Tehran (Reuters) - A senior Iranian official said yesterday that Washington paid a ransom to Iran to secure the freedom of US hostages held in Lebanon.

The parliamentary speaker, Mr Ali Akbar Hasemi Rafsanjani, said: "I explicitly declare to the American people and to the world that the Americans paid us ransom in the Lebanon affair. We received ransom in return for our intercession."

Iranian officials and Washington have denied that US weapons were sent to Iran in a direct trade for Americans held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

Three US hostages were freed during an 18-month period when the White House was secretly trying to improve relations with Tehran, partly by authorizing arms shipments.

Mr Rafsanjani said formal relations between the two countries, broken by the United States during the 1979-81 occupation of the American Embassy in Tehran, could not be restored at present. But he said it would be a first step if Washington released Iranian assets, including weapons and military supplies paid for before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

US officers watch Sandinista troops

Puerto las Flores, Nicaragua (AP) - Two American military observers watched as thousands of Sandinista soldiers took part in exercises defending Nicaragua against a mock attack by US and other forces.

The war games, called "Total Annihilation of the Enemy Invader," ended late on Thursday after three days of manoeuvres by 6,500 Sandinista troops using Soviet-made T-55 tanks, Mi-24 helicopter gunships, multiple rocket launchers, surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft batteries.

Regan target of whispering campaign in Washington

The fall of Donald Regan is a classic example of the way power politics work in Washington. First there are the murmurs and whispers - press articles quoting "officials" or "sources" voicing dissatisfaction with the White House Chief of Staff.

Then the leaks begin - President Regan's California circle and, more damagingly, Mrs Nancy Regan are quoted advising the President to dismiss his abrasive aide. Then senators and senior Republicans go public, criticizing him on television and speaking of him as an obstacle to the President's recovery.

Colonel North, who until now has refused to comment on the affair, has complained bitterly that he is now being abandoned by "so-called friends and colleagues". He told reporters, who have besieged his house each day: "I continue to place my trust in the Lord, in my family."

He did not believe President Reagan really wanted him to give up his rights. "People have died face down in the mud all over the world defending those individual rights," he said.

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

In his heyday, Mr Regan was always there, no more than a couple of steps from Mr Reagan, carrying the important papers, jostling a path clear for the President, snapping a comment or quip to the throng of reporters.

Bonn spy Language barrier

Bonn - The West German Interior Ministry has named three Soviet diplomats and a member of the Czechoslovak Embassy as spies and asked the Foreign Ministry to declare them persona non grata, a Bonn paper said yesterday (John England writes).

The report, in Die Welt, said they had been engaged in spying in political, technological and military areas. The Interior Ministry refused to comment, but a source close to the ministry said it was expected to tell the three to leave without fuss as soon as possible.

Rebels sink Nile boats

Nairobi - Rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army claim to have destroyed four river boats on the White Nile in two recent attacks on a government convoy returning from delivering relief supplies to the Upper Nile regional capital of Malakal (A Correspondent writes).

Roses clue in kidnap mystery

Brazilian police, with few leads and scanty evidence, are trying to solve a spectacular case of kidnapping which has already involved the authorities in Uruguay, Paraguay and Argentina.

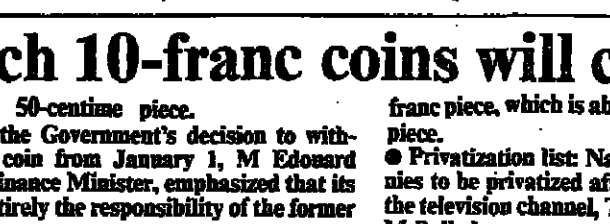
Even the FBI was called in to help solve the case of the vice-president of Brazil's largest bank, Senhor Antonio Beltrán Martínez, aged 58, who was seized early last month.

Colombo swaps its prisoners

In a big reversal of policy, the Sri Lankan Government yesterday swapped two suspected guerrillas for two of its soldiers.

The two guerrilla suspects - Gamini Anandhane and Kunju Alias Kumar - were flown in an Air Force plane to the northern capital of Jaffna, a stronghold of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, while the two army men - Lieutenant Ajit Chandrasiri and gunner Keerthi Bandara - turned up at Colombo domestic airport in civilian clothes.

Gunner Bandara had a foot injury from a bullet wound he received on October 13, the day of his capture. The soldiers were captured by the Tigers at Adampan, near the north-western town of Mannar, when the Army was on a major combing-out operation of suspected guerrilla hideouts.



Miss Jill Morrell, the fiancée of John McCarthy, a British hostage in Lebanon, looks at photographs of foreign hostages during a visit to Damascus. Miss Morrell, aged 29, is in the Syrian capital to try to seek the release of her husband-to-be, who has been held since April.



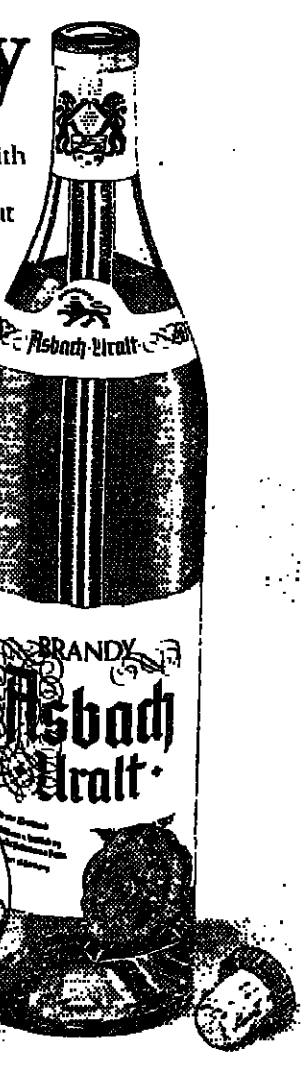
The Asbach Story

It could easily be argued that Ruedesheim is the gateway to that most beautiful part of the River Rhine with its vineyards and castles.

What is beyond dispute is that it is the home of that most sought after German Brandy - Asbach-Uralt. For it was here, around the turn of the century that Hugo Asbach founded his world-famous distillery.

It takes five litres of the finest wines to produce one single bottle of Asbach-Uralt. What it also takes is the family skill in distilling; the maturing in Limousin oak barrels; and of course the blending, handed down through generations, to create this soft, mellow, golden brandy. The after dinner brandy that isn't just for after dinner.

Discover it in discerning restaurants and off licences, or come and see us here in Ruedesheim from Monday to mid-day Friday for a tasting. For further information write to: Weinbrennerei Asbach & Co., 6220 Ruedesheim am Rhein, Postfach 1130, West Germany.



The Great Brandy from the Romantic Rhine

Withdrawal of new French 10-franc coins will cost £10m

From Diana Geddes, Paris Less than two months after its unhappy birth, France's new "baby" 10-franc coin (worth about £1) has been killed off - to a unanimous sigh of relief, but at a cost of more than £10 million to the French taxpayer.

Announcing the Government's decision to withdraw the new coin from January 1, M Edouard Balladur, the Finance Minister, emphasized that its creation was entirely the responsibility of the former Socialist regime.

He had considered withdrawing the 50-centime piece, but that would have cost an estimated £50 million. A million of the new coins have gone into circulation alongside the former, large copper 10-franc piece, which is about the size of an English 10p piece.

Advertisement for Asbach-Uralt brandy, including the text 'The Great Brandy from the Romantic Rhine' and a list of names to be privatized.

Gorbachov sanctioned release of Nobel prize winner from exile

Western concern helped end Sakharovs' ordeal

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin's decision, sanctioned personally by Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, to allow Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, to return to Moscow ends a nightmare existence for the Nobel prize-winner dissident which began when he was banished to the closed city of Gorky nearly seven years ago.

During that time, he has lived under constant surveillance and more than occasional harassment by the KGB, cut off from the outside world and from his profession of advanced science within the Soviet Union. Most ordinary citizens have been convinced by an avalanche of official propaganda to regard him as a traitor. Many articles in the party press slyly attributed his alleged failings to the fact that he is Jewish.

According to many Western experts, Dr Sakharov's exile — which began after his arrest on

a street in Moscow — is illegal, although Soviet officials recently used a press conference called to mark International Human Rights Day to argue that it was justified as an administrative decision taken by the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet.

Over the years, a trickle of information has reached the West about the desperate conditions in which Dr Sakharov has had to live, surrounded by the secret police and deprived of hearing any foreign broadcasts. He was never formally charged or convicted under any Soviet law.

Conditions in Gorky, a bleak industrial city on the banks of the Volga, some 250 miles east of Moscow, were graphically described in Mrs Bonner's recent book with the poignant title *Alone Together*. "Wherever you go, you feel the KGB watching, sometimes making films, sometimes

harassing," she wrote. "Sometimes you find that your house has been entered and things moved or taken."

Probably the most painful period of Dr Sakharov's long exile came in 1984 — he himself noted the aptness of the date — when the inventor of the Soviet hydrogen bomb and youngest-ever full member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences was forcibly fed to break a hunger strike mounted in an attempt to make the authorities let his wife travel abroad for urgent medical treatment, a move allowed more than a year later.

In response to the protest, Dr Sakharov was treated to what amounted to torture. "I was again pushed down onto the bed without a pillow, and my hands and feet were tied. A tight clamp was placed on my nose so that I could breathe only through my mouth. Whenever I opened my mouth to take a breath, a



Dr Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner: the end comes to a nightmare existence in the closed city of Gorky.

spoonful of nutrient or broth containing strained meat would be poured into my mouth," he wrote in a smuggled account published in the West earlier this year.

"Sometimes my jaws were pried open by a lever. They would hold my mouth shut until I swallowed, so that I could not spit out the food. When I managed to do so, it only prolonged the agony... I had to gasp for breath. I could

feel the veins bulging on my forehead."

Although Dr Sakharov's ill-treatment and continuing exile became one of the biggest threats to Mr Gorbachov's efforts to improve the Kremlin's image on human rights, many Soviet officials seemed to regard it as justified, arguing that he should have been sent to a labour camp.

Those veteran Moscow correspondents who met Dr

Sakharov before his banishment remember him as a quietly spoken, impeccably mannered man who left a firm impression of what one hard-nosed American reporter described as "saintliness."

Among qualities cited by those who knew him during his frequent contacts with the Western media which so infuriated the authorities were his courage, determination and sheer strength of intellect in the subjects that were his speciality — theoretical physics and cosmology.

For many years he was involved in the crash Soviet programme to catch up with the US in nuclear weapons, a period when he was among the country's elite and was three times awarded the decoration Hero of Socialist Labour.

All this changed in 1968, when he published an essay in the West called *Thoughts on Progress, Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom*. Emerging only a few weeks before the

Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia, the essay, and later calls that the West should reject détente without internal Soviet liberalization, angered the Kremlin.

A vicious press campaign was unleashed in which he was depicted as a "pro-fascist". His eventual seizure by the KGB and exile became more intolerable in May, 1984, when the lifeline forged by his wife's trips to Moscow was cut with her, too, being exiled to Gorky for five years for alleged anti-state activities.

Observers here believe that it was the firm support which Mrs Bonner received during her meetings with world leaders during her recent stay in the West, such as Mrs Margaret Thatcher and President Mitterrand, that finally persuaded the Kremlin to rethink the most self-defeating of its campaigns against non-conforming Soviet citizens.

Peter Reddaway, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Cautious welcome for Soviet decision

By Our Foreign Staff

Western officials have hailed the Soviet decision to free Dr Sakharov from internal exile, but said there were many other cases to be resolved if Moscow meant to turn a new leaf in its treatment of dissidents.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said the decision would be warmly welcomed everywhere.

"At this time of happiness we should not forget the many others in the Soviet Union who are still deprived of those human rights for which Andrei Sakharov and his wife have themselves fought so hard," he said.

In Washington, the presidential spokesman, Mr Larry Speakes, said: "We welcome this as a personal victory of courage for the principles of human rights that the two have come to exemplify."

But he added: "There are countless others who remain incarcerated for no reason other than their desire to express their views."

The United States Ambassador in Moscow, Mr Arthur Hartman, said: "If he is allowed to return to Moscow to work, this is a wonderful development."

The French Foreign Trade Minister, M Michel Noir, described the release as a gesture after the Soviet dissident, Anatoly Marchenko, died in jail earlier this month.

In The Hague, a Dutch government spokesman said: "The Netherlands sincerely hopes this move will open the way for an improvement in the condition and fates of others in the Soviet Union such as Sakharov."

But a spokesman for the Amsterdam-based Bukovsky Foundation, which campaigns for human rights in the Soviet Union, also said the decision was an attempt to gloss over Marchenko's death.

Turks still press to join EEC

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Turkey has served notice that it does not intend to take "No" as an answer from Britain in its bid to secure EEC membership.

Mr Ali Bozer, Turkey's Minister for EEC Affairs, flew home yesterday after revealing that he had told Sir Geoffrey Howe that a formal application was imminent. This was not what the Foreign Secretary wanted to hear.

Mr Bozer's stand showed that Ankara had chosen to ignore strong hints from Mrs Thatcher that the time was not ripe for Turkish membership.

Mr Bozer said he had noted discouraging remarks made by the Prime Minister at the EEC summit in London on December 6, and that Sir Geoffrey had repeated them during their meeting on Thursday.

Mrs Thatcher made two points at the summit: Turkey's association agreement with the EEC should be made to work before moving on to full membership, and the EEC should adjust to the accession of Spain and Portugal before accepting a 13th member.

Soviet rioting 'over' Kremlin confirms more open policy

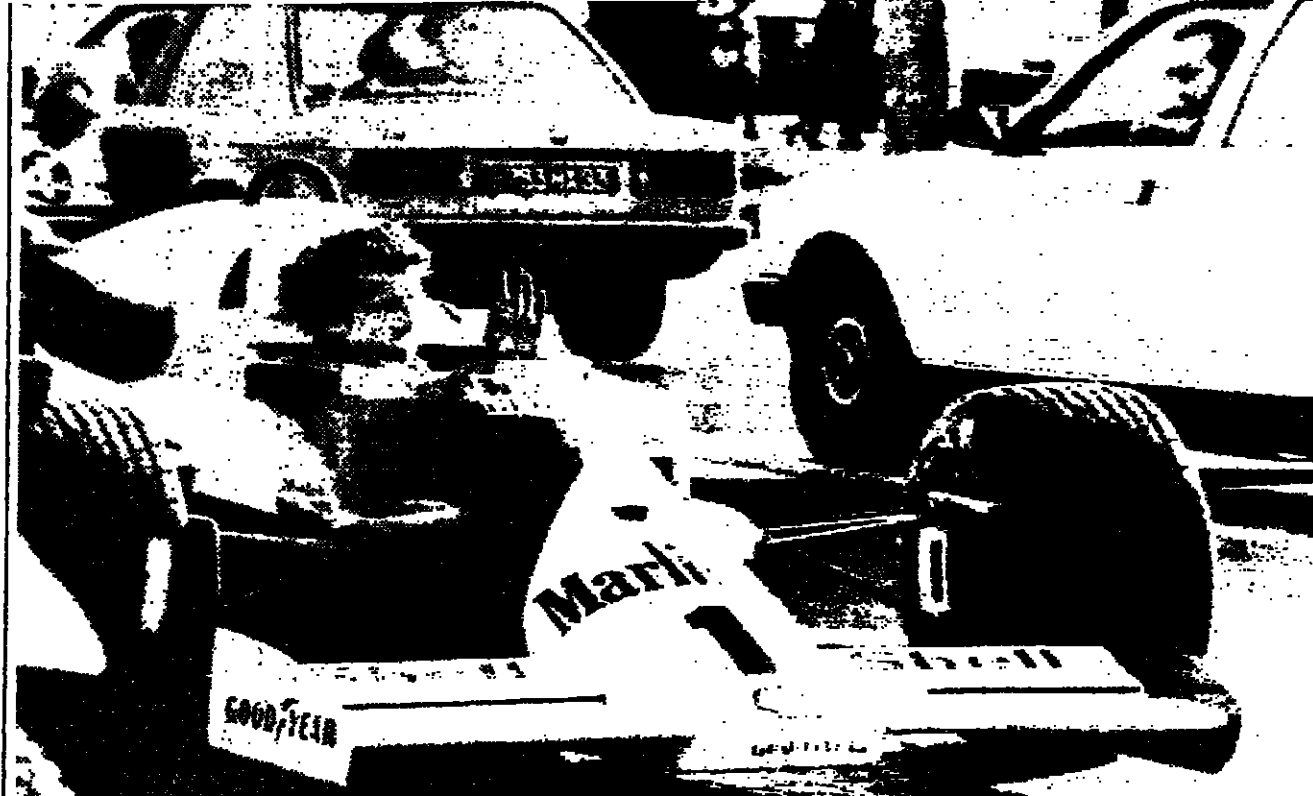
From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

The Soviet Government said yesterday that the situation in the Kazakhstan capital of Alma-Ata, scene of rioting against the appointment of a new leader of the Central Asian republic's Communist Party, had "returned to normal".

The news was given at a press conference by Mr Vladimir Petrovsky, the Deputy Foreign Minister, further reflecting the unprecedented fashion the Kremlin has chosen to publicize the serious disturbances in the nation's second largest republic.

Mr Petrovsky, deliberately drawing attention to the fact that the Kremlin had broken with the tradition of secrecy surrounding reports of internal unrest inside the Soviet Union, said: "The reports of the unrest were immediately relayed to the mass media. This is in line with the new policy of openness which was decided upon at the 27th congress of the Communist Party in February."

Mr Petrovsky did not add



Alain Prost, who has won the World Formula One motor racing championship twice, waving to motorists as he drives his McLaren racing car down the Champs Elysees yesterday in a lap of honour which is accorded to Frenchmen who achieve world status in their chosen field.

China gets tough on screening

Peking (AFP) — China's Health Ministry, facing resistance by foreign students to mandatory Aids screening, has threatened to bar them from classes unless they complied.

The programme is part of China's efforts to keep the country free from the deadly disease. So far the disease has been discovered in only four Chinese, all haemophiliacs.

Bokassa trial judges charge ex-police chief with perjury

After many hours of legal shadow-boxing, the court trying former Emperor Jean-Bédel Bokassa for murder, cannibalism, grand larceny and sundry other crimes yesterday arrested his former Chief of Police, Mr Corzon Kazin, and later charged him with perjury.

Mr Kazin has been tying himself in knots during an extended and highly uncomfortable stint under questioning about his role in the violent death of one of Bokassa's Cabinet ministers.

He went a bit too far yesterday in readjusting his previous testimony. Mr Kazin, a key witness in the disappearance and presumed death in 1973 of the then

Public Works Minister, Lucien Mpongo, initially denied involvement.

But he contradicted himself and admitted he was the one who had escorted him to jail.

Up shot the public prosecutor with his by now familiar demands for Mr Kazin — who, interestingly, is now a highly placed official in the present Government — to pay the penalty for lying to the court.

To applause from on-lookers, the judge and his colleagues on the bench marched off into recess to consider what was to be done about him. It goes without saying that, like everything else in the Palais de Justice,

this turned into another time-consuming exercise.

Shortly after this little drama unfolded, there was another development: the former emperor's lawyers asked for a week-long recess over Christmas.

They argued that Bokassa, who is 65, was emotionally drained after five days of listening to scores of witnesses testifying about friends or relatives kidnapped and tortured to death or summarily shot.

There are those among the visiting press corps who suspect that this is something of a put-up job, but the court has already decided to suspend the hearings from Monday.



Maradona in paternity suit

Naples (AP) — Court proceedings have begun in a paternity case involving the Argentine football star Diego Maradona, who plays for Napoli in Italy's First Division.

Sigovina Cristina Sinagra, a 22-year-old woman from Naples, is claiming Maradona is the father of her recently born child.

Mulroney trip

Harare (AFP) — The Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, is to make a three-day official visit to Zimbabwe in January.

Too costly

Lagos (AFP) — Pan American World Airlines is ending nearly a quarter of a century of service to Africa after Nigeria's military Government cut the fares airlines can charge for flights out of Lagos.

Death penalty

Peking (Reuters) — An accountant at the Bank of China and two accomplices from the Portuguese-administered territory of Macao have been executed in Zhuhai in the south of China for smuggling, fraud and embezzlement.

Police hurt

Mejilla (Reuters) — At least seven policemen were injured when 300 Muslims stormed a police station in protest at the arrest of a Muslim leader in this Spanish enclave.

Bewigged bear

Wellington (Reuters) — Dr Gerard Wall, the Speaker of New Zealand's Parliament, finding a large stuffed brown bear clothed in wig and gown occupying his chair when he returned from a dinner break, gave the bear the customary parliamentary bow before an attendant removed it from the chamber.

Blacks begin Christmas campaign

Five die over candle protest

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The Christmas candle-lighting protest called by the main anti-apartheid groups has caused a new set of problems in South Africa, with at least five people killed so far this week in violent clashes between different black groups over its organization.

The deaths, in fighting between militant youths and gangs of blanket-clad Basuto tribesmen, known in township parlance as the "Russians", were first reported in yesterday's issue of the *Sowetan*, the main daily English-language newspaper read by blacks in the Johannesburg area.

The Soweto police later confirmed the deaths, and said that three people died in the Masetla district of Soweto, two in the Chiawelo district and one in the Phiri district, apparently as a result of knobkerrie attacks.

The trouble began on the evening of December 16, the start of the 10-day "Christmas Against the Emergency" protest called by the United Democratic Front (UDF), an

The British Ambassador to South Africa, Sir Patrick Moberly, yesterday delivered a protest Note to the South African Government on behalf of the EEC, expressing grave concern "at growing evidence of serious abuses of human rights in South Africa".

alliance of more than 800 anti-apartheid organizations.

As part of the protest, residents of Soweto and other black townships throughout the country were asked to switch off their electric lights between 7 pm and 9 pm and light candles instead. This request was widely obeyed in Soweto and many other townships.

In Basuto-occupied areas of Soweto, however, there was resistance to the young members of UDF street committees, known as "comrades", who patrolled the township monitoring and enforcing the blackout. The house of one unco-operative Basuto was reportedly attacked and set alight.

Gangs of "Russians", armed with knives and knobkerries, then sought revenge, raiding houses and flogging and assaulting any youths they found. In addition to the five deaths, scores of other people were said to be injured.

The "Russians" have a long history in South Africa's black townships. Their name is said to derive from their reputation for violence — an unfair slur on the Basuto people as a whole and the blankets they wear to keep warm in their mountainous homeland of Lesotho.

PARTYING SHOTS

We gave ten celebrities a camera each, sent them partying, and saw what developed



THE SUNDAY TIMES
BETTER THAN A MONTH OF OTHER SUNDAYS

Holidays
Gran Hotel
La Toja
First class (5 stars) Galicia
North Spain, tennis, golf 9
holes, casino, swimming pool
climate, congress pavilion.
Tel: 010/34/986 730025
Telex 88042 toxax

FORCED AUCTION
OF SEVERAL HUNDRED EXCEPTIONALLY FINE AS WELL AS MEDIUM QUALITY
PERSIAN AND ORIENTAL RUGS
CARPETS AND RUNNERS
including antique pieces, nomadic items, silk rugs, kilims, collectors and investors items, excellent household rugs being the property of direct importers.

EX H.M. CUSTOMS & EXCISE
To be disposed of at nominal or no reserve.
Each item fully authenticated.
Expert advice available at time of viewing.

To be transferred from bonded warehouses and offered at

AUCTION 1
The Richmond Hill Hotel
145/150 Richmond Hill
Richmond, Surrey
ON: Sun 21st Dec at 11.30am
Viewing From 10.30am
on day of sale

AUCTION 2
The English Speaking Union
Dartmouth House
37 Charles St. W.
(Adj to Chesterfield Hotel)
ON: Sun 21st Dec at 3pm
Viewing from 12 noon
on day of sale

AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Owing to the urgency of realising immediate cash, these items are being offered under instructions to ensure complete disposal.

BALLINGRAN GRANGE LTD
28 ROSSLYN HILL, HAMPSTEAD, N.W.3.
Tel: 01-794 7806
Payment: Cash, Cheque or all major credit cards

The M15 case: No judgement until February

Whitehall compromise hint as spy book hearing ends

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

The M15 book hearing ended on a note of mystery yesterday after 22 days of evidence and legal argument estimated to have cost the British Government about £1 million and a good deal more in loss of dignity.

The final act in Court 8D of the New South Wales Supreme Court included an angry rebuttal by Whitehall of allegations made against Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney-General, and Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary; and a suggestion that there could be a last-minute compromise.

It also quashed last-minute speculation of a deal on Mr Wright's book, *Spycatcher*, after a hint of compromise briefly entered the courtroom.

The mystery concerns precisely what the British Government intended by asking for "clarification" of its position, which on Thursday provoked Mr Justice Powell to accuse Whitehall of delaying tactics, and warn that he could dismiss the entire case.

It appears that the Government was asking the judge to be an arbiter of what material in the secret Wright manuscript is in the public domain - in other words, is common knowledge - by asking him to compare its contents with 26 other books.

This proposal indicated a new flexibility in the important public domain issue. The Government has throughout dismissed it as irrelevant, maintaining that Mr Wright was disqualified from writing about anything learnt during his career with M15, whether it was in the public domain or not.

Yesterday morning Mr Malcolm Turnbull, counsel for Mr Wright, said his understanding was that Whitehall was offering the deal of a "blue pencil job" similar to that used on Nigel West's book, *A Matter of Trust*, which was published with government approval after being temporarily restrained.

"We remain prepared to enter into a

West-style negotiation, as long as it is carried out fairly and quickly," Mr Turnbull said.

Mr Theo Simos QC said, however, that Mr Turnbull had misunderstood the government position. The intention was that the judge should explore the principle of public domain. If, for example, a subject had been covered in two lines of a previous book, was Mr Wright entitled to write 20 pages on it?

If appropriate, Mr Simos said there would be discussions with Mr Wright about how the principle would apply to the whole manuscript. He described this process as "negotiation", but then said

● The submissions (about Sir Robert and Sir Michael) were baseless, unjustified and should be rejected out of hand ●

Mr Theo Simos, QC

that was "the wrong word" and changed it to "discussion". Mr Simos then went on the offensive for one of the few times in the case in denouncing Mr Turnbull's attack on Sir Michael Havers and Sir Robert Armstrong.

The language used by Mr Turnbull in accusing these men of deceit had been "extravagant, melodramatic and outrageously inappropriate," Mr Simos said. "The submissions were baseless, unjustified and should be rejected out of hand. They were full of schoolboy debating tricks, full of emotive allegations and mixed metaphors, which even a third-rate journalist should not be proud of."

The attack on Sir Robert's credibility had been based on three matters: the letter he wrote to Chapman Pincher's publishers asking for a copy of *The Trade Is Treachery* when the Gov-

ernment already had page proofs; on his sworn answers to two interrogatories; and on the delay in correcting his mistake that Sir Michael had made the decision not to try to restrain the Pincher book.

Mr Simos said Sir Robert had admitted that his letter to the publishers had given "a misleading impression". But his answers to this question had been that of a truthful witness.

At this point, the judge interrupted to say that it could be said of Sir Robert that "he would not stoop to a lie when a half truth would do". He had admitted, the judge added, that though he would not wish to lie, there might be circumstances in which he had to.

The judge said: "I have to say to myself, 'I know that he has dissembled on one occasion.' I must bear that in mind."

That was not the issue, Mr Simos replied. The issue was whether Sir Robert lied in the witness box.

As to that, the judge said that in the past 10 years there had been only four witnesses who he had concluded were lying. His main objection to Sir Robert's testimony was that he was an official when the person who could have offered useful, hard evidence would have been a technician.

On the two interrogatories, Mr Simos said that, subject to qualifications made by Sir Robert on the replies themselves, there was no basis for suggesting that he had not been truthful in cross-examination.

On the one-week delay before Sir Robert told the court that he had been mistaken in testifying that it had been Sir Michael who decided not to seek restraint of the Pincher book, Mr Simos said: "No delay was attributable to Sir Robert."

Any delay on Sir Michael's side had been due to "study of the transcript and making inquiries from all appropriate persons, and then giving consideration as to whether it was appropriate to communicate with a witness under cross-examination."

Upsurge in Ugandan tribal war

Support for rebel guerrillas in north worries Britain

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

Disturbing evidence that President Yoweri Museveni is losing his military grip on northern Uganda in the face of stiff, tribal-based resistance has reached London.

Travellers returning from the region paint a grim picture of fighting virtually on a daily basis between the President's National Resistance Army and guerrilla movements.

The strife has severely hampered European relief efforts, driven many small farmers from their land, discouraged crop planting, and aroused concern among EEC officials in Brussels that food supplies may dwindle.

Four independent sources contacted by *The Times* agreed that the guerrillas were receiving strong popular support from local Acholi people. While still in control of Gulu, the main central northern town, and the road linking it to Kampala, government troops risked ambush whenever they moved into the bush.

Even troops in the town have been twice attacked. The local support will cause greater concern in Britain than the fighting itself. Whitehall has invested high hopes in President Museveni as the man most likely to break the

mould of Ugandan tribalism. Since he came to power in January his excellent civil rights record has encouraged ministers to believe that he could attract broad, inter-tribal support.

For several months continuing resistance in the north stemmed mainly from remnants of the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA), the troops of the previous government.

The balance of guerrilla forces has since changed. Recent visitors say that UNLA units have merged with a broader but loose-knit resistance which has no clear leader. Roving bandits and cattle rustlers have added to the confusion.

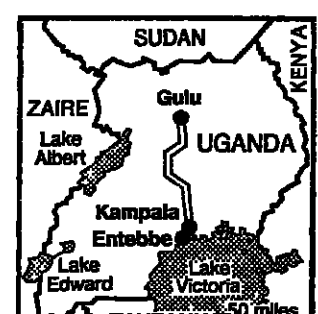
One Acholi source said there was now hardly a family

that did not have a relative linked to the guerrillas. Local people refer to them simply as *ahim* or *odid*. Both words are said to mean "the people from the bush".

The trends have prompted mounting pessimism about the chances for national reconciliation. For 20 years the Nilotic tribes of the north - the Acholis, Langis and West Nile peoples - dominated the far more numerous southern Bantu through the governments of Idi Amin, Milton Obote and Tito Okello.

While President Museveni's support comes from the Bantu, his policy is strongly opposed to tribalism. In an attempt to attract broad support he has imposed stern discipline on his own troops.

An attempt to cast doubt on their reputation emerged last week. A prominent Acholi flew to London to air allegations of serious civil rights abuses by the President's forces. He claimed that government troops hunting guerrillas had killed 11 civilian hostages in a single incident. On another occasion women attempting to flee a hut set on fire by troops were shot dead as they broke out of a mud wall.



Suicides by young Japanese rise

Tokyo - Suicides by young Japanese have risen dramatically this year, with 723 children and teenagers taking their own lives in the 11 months to December (David Watts writes).

The biggest increase in suicides was among young girls, apparently prompted by the

example of Miss Yukiko Okada, a young pop singer.

Miss Okada was the incarnation of the dreams of thousands of romantic, immature Japanese girls. After a failed suicide attempt in April, she was released from hospital only to jump promptly to her death from an apartment win-

dow. The singer was distraught over an unhappy affair with an older man.

A rash of "copycat" suicides followed and by the end of November 220 girls, 77 per cent more than last year, had killed themselves. The biggest increase came in May after Miss Okada's death.

Zimbabwe crackdown on 'quacks'

From A Correspondent Harare

The Zimbabwe Government is planning to clamp down on bogus "traditional healers" by introducing a disciplinary code along the lines of force for Western-trained doctors.

The traditional healers or herbalists have been officially recognized since independence in 1980 and their previous, description - witch doctors - is frowned upon.

But after six years of talks and studies the authorities have not come up with a definition of a "traditional healer" or a set of examinations which could be imposed to check their abilities.

The last time an African government tried to tackle the problem was more than 160 years ago, when King Shaka's Zulu empire was faced with an epidemic of teenage boys trying to evade army service by enrolling as trainees witch doctors. They were made to sleep unarmed in the hyena-infested bush to prove their supernatural powers.

Zimbabwe's *bona fide* traditional healers, or *ngangas*, as they are known, received warm praise from the country's foremost expert on western medicine, the late Professor Michael Gelfand, who acknowledged their ability to treat psychosomatic illnesses beyond the reach of European science.

The Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe, told a group of government-trained health assistants in Harare on Thursday that the state-sponsored Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers' Association (Zinatha) was ready to weed out quacks who cheated gullible people in the country's remote areas.



An Israeli soldier stands guard in Manger Square, Bethlehem, as part of the increased security measures being taken in preparation for the flood of tourists over Christmas.

Jerusalem police raid bible college

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Police with sniffer dogs trained in finding explosives raided the Shuvu Banim yeshiva (bible college) in the old city of Jerusalem early yesterday morning.

After a search of the rambling old building, in the Muslim quarter of the city, they arrested one student for possession of a knife and a dagger.

Another student from the college was arrested on Wednesday after police searched the car he had been driving and found rags and turpentine inside. The car had been abandoned after a chase on Tuesday night, when its three occupants disappeared into the darkness.

A student from the same college was stabbed to death in the Old City last month, provoking violent anti-Arab demonstrations after three Palestinians were arrested for the murder.

Yesterday's raid was carried out as part of police investigations into grenade booby traps set outside an Arab home and under an Arab-owned car, which were discovered on Wednesday in east Jerusalem.

The bombs had been made from Israeli Army grenades and had been set using similar techniques. They were defused by an Israeli Army bomb disposal team.

Police say they are investigating a possibility that there has been a rebirth of the extremist Jewish "underground" gang, members of which in the past have been responsible for bombing the cars of West Bank Arab mayors and for planning to blow up the Dome of the Rock in the Old City.

The occupied territories continue to remain tense, with occasional stone-throwing incidents.

Labour in revolt at Israel budget cuts

Jerusalem - Labour members of Israel's coalition Government of National Unity, backed by the party's political bureau and the Histadrut trade union movement, mean to block the economic austerity plan and budget due to be presented to the Cabinet tomorrow (Ian Murray writes).

According to the Likud Finance Minister, Mr Moshe Nissim, the package is intended to herald a new era in the economy, but Labour ministers, led by Mr Shimon Peres, who as Prime Minister brought in the last austerity plan in July 1985, have damned the scheme as hitting the poor to help the rich. Even more significantly, they claim

that it will put the nation at risk. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, has emphasized this in pointing out that budget cuts have already undermined the security of the country. Mr Rabin has also told the Knesset that not only has military training had to be reduced, ammunition reserves used up and emergency depots raided, but that all of its production secrets have had to be disclosed as the state-run defence industries have struggled to stay in business.

The disclosures were made, he said, to try to interest foreign buyers in top-secret weapons systems designed and developed by the defence industries. The need to find buyers to keep the factories in business was reluctantly judged to be more important than keeping their secrets. Even though the disclosures had now been made, it would be a year or more before it was known if the sacrifice had paid off. He also complained that weapons research had had to be curtailed and that research staff would have to be cut by 700 more before the end of March, merely to hold spending inside last year's budget. This year's draft budget has defence contributing savings equivalent to 40 per cent of all of the 486 million shekels (£240 million) in cuts being sought by the Treasury. This would top 180 million shekels off the defence budget, while Mr Rabin has been pressing for an increase of at least that amount just to maintain defence levels. Health and education are the other two areas where the Treasury is seeking large cuts. Both are run by Labour ministers, who are threatening to join Mr Rabin in blocking the budget. Mr Nissim insists that the plan must be implemented if the economy is to continue its painful recovery. He has told Mr Rabin the security of the country relies at least as much on a sound economy as it does on the Army.

Welshman accused of Lufthansa kidnapping

From John England, Bonn

A Welshman extradited from London to West Germany last month is to be charged with involvement in the terrorist kidnapping of a Lufthansa airline manager in Bolivia in 1983, for whom a \$1.5 million (about £1 million) ransom was paid.

Mr Alan Rees, aged 35, of the South Wales town of Ammanford, has been in jail in Frankfurt on remand since his extradition on November 26 after losing a long legal battle to stay in Britain.

Mr Rees, along with four members of the Bolivian Socialist Falange group, is alleged to have kidnapped Herr Michael Wurche, aged 41, the Lufthansa regional manager, from outside his home in La Paz on November 14 1983.

Herr Wurche told police that five masked and armed men bundled him in to the back seat of his car, gave him an injection that made him lose consciousness, and drove him to a shack on the outskirts of La Paz where he was chained to a bed. The kidnapers' ransom demand of \$1.5 million was met with registered notes from the West German Federal Bank, and Herr Wurche was released near La Paz airport.

India clears Briton of Bhopal spying charges

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

The Supreme Court of India has ordered the Government to drop all charges against Mr David Bergman, a Briton arrested in Bhopal for spying.

1984 in the Union Carbide plant at Bhopal.

Mr Bergman, a 21-year-old law student, approached the court on Friday to clear his name and alleged that the Madhya Pradesh government continued to malign him.

In Punjab, suspected Sikh terrorists killed a student in Amritsar yesterday.

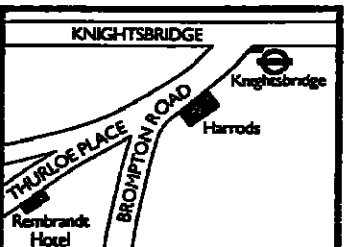
Justice M M Datta and Justice Rangsh Mishra said in their judgement that the charge against Mr Bergman was not maintainable and that the state government and the central Government should "clearly" state that there was no charge of spying against him.

Three days earlier, terrorists killed a Sikh family of six, including three children, for having allegedly given information to police about Mr Dhana Singh Sidhu, a "Khalistan" leader who was arrested on Sunday night. In Surjip Singh Barnala, the Punjab Chief Minister, has defended the police entry into the Golden Temple in Amritsar earlier this year. He asked the Akali breakaway group in the state assembly in Chandigarh what else he could have done when the terrorists announced the formation of "Khalistan" from the ramparts of the temple.

FREE 2 FUR JACKETS ON EVERY SALE OVER £499 on presentation of this advertisement

THIS · SUNDAY · ONLY 21st DECEMBER 9.30am to 6.00pm

REMBRANDT HOTEL



THE STATE ROOM II THURLOE PLACE SW7 (300 yards from Harrods)

As probably the oldest established fur company in the U.K., we have the experience, knowledge and direct bulk buying capacity to offer you HUGE SAVINGS on our staggering range of beautifully designed quality furs in the latest styles. We also take great pleasure in offering you the largest selection of elegant fur-lined raincoats in town today. Don't be misled by price only - we invite you to join us this Sunday, to choose your fur from the best value collection in the U.K.

Access/Visa/Amex/Diners and personal cheques accepted. Export orders VAT refundable. Budget Furs 83, 19-29 Redchurch Street, London E2 7D Tel: 01-729 5077 (6 lines). Office hours.

U.K.'s LARGEST EVER FUR SALE UNBEATABLE DISCOUNTED PRICES-DIRECT FROM THE MANUFACTURER

UNIQUE OFFER Fully stranded Female Mink coats \$1299 Exclusive to Budget Furs

Fully stranded Mink coats - £985 Silver Fox, full length coats - \$475 Silver Fox jackets - £349 Mink coats - £349

Blue Fox coats - £340 Fur-lined raincoats - \$149 Musquash jackets - \$145 Fox jackets - £99

THE ARTS

Prize turkeys of 1986

OPERA
La Bohème
Grand, Leeds

It no longer shocks when notoriously shocking directors fail to shock, and so David Freeman's production of La Bohème...

I think it is possible to take the opera at other than face value, but Mr Freeman provides good reason for treating it naively...

Between the acts Schumann reappears, 20 years on, to reminisce, so that we really are shown, as the original novel had it, "scenes from Bohemian life"...

More practically, the narrative covers scene changes neatly.

But, of course, the main business is the opera, which, curiously, seems shortened by the extension, perhaps because it is so definitively framed into four panels...

The garret is indeed a tiny space, only about 12 feet across and this thrusts the companions up against each other, helping them to generate in themselves and in one another a self-conscious, exaggerated vitality...

The production bears that centring because all six are young and young-looking, spontaneous in their behaviour and fresh of voice. Eirian Davies as Mimì is not only a triumph of make-up...

Paul Griffiths

Britain led the world in turkey-farming this year. The prize bird, of course, was the disastrous Revolution. Apart from being a profound setback to the economy and morale of British films...

The actors (Al Pacino and the ubiquitous Nastassia Kinski) did not have a chance against the absurdities and chatter of the screenplay...

Highlander (directed by Russell Mulcahy, like Julien Temple a pop video wizard) saw maximal deployment of special effects and high technology alongside minimal story sense...

Another British extravaganza, Absolute Beginners turned Colin McInnes' mirror of the Fifties into a series of superficial, nostalgic, scatterbrained pop videos...

The daffiest bird from the British hatcheries though must have been Biggles, directed by John Hough. It was a bizarre decision to resurrect Captain W. E. Johns' boy's book hero...

In American parlance, a "couch potato" is a home-grown tuber distinguished by deep roots and square eyes. Where humans have heads and hands, couch potatoes have programme guides and auto-changers...

William Shimell is darkly suave and sensual as Marcello, and Anna Steiger, after a shaky start as Musetta, looks set to equal him in game-playing and vocal cunning...

Paul Griffiths

With five more days to go before the Christmas dinner our film and television critics select some of the biggest screen flops of the year

In Hollywood, Turkeycock bellicosity is currently potent stuff at the box office. Top Gun and Heartbreak Ridge, which tell young America what fun the next war will be...

Car Trouble will at least be remembered for putting on the screen a venerable sexual myth about the fornicating adulterers who find themselves inextricably trapped in the act by a muscular spasm...

The daffiest bird from the British hatcheries though must have been Biggles, directed by John Hough. It was a bizarre decision to resurrect Captain W. E. Johns' boy's book hero...

In Hollywood, Turkeycock bellicosity is currently potent stuff at the box office. Top Gun and Heartbreak Ridge, which tell young America what fun the next war will be...

Australian actor and director Bruce Beresford's King David, diligently doing a breakneck rundown of the Biblical monarch's diplomatic career and private life, failed to capture the flamboyance of old De Mille epics...

Probably the first film adapted from a board game was Clue (in this country, where it was invented,

known as "Cluedo"). This predictably doomed undertaking fell to an Englishman, Jonathan Lynn, as his first feature assignment...

For Britain they changed the title of Howard the Duck to Howard... A New Breed of Hero, evidently hoping that audiences would not notice that the nasty little thing from outer space was a bird...

Everyone has his blind spots: in Roman Polanski it is apparently an inability to direct either action or knockabout comedy...

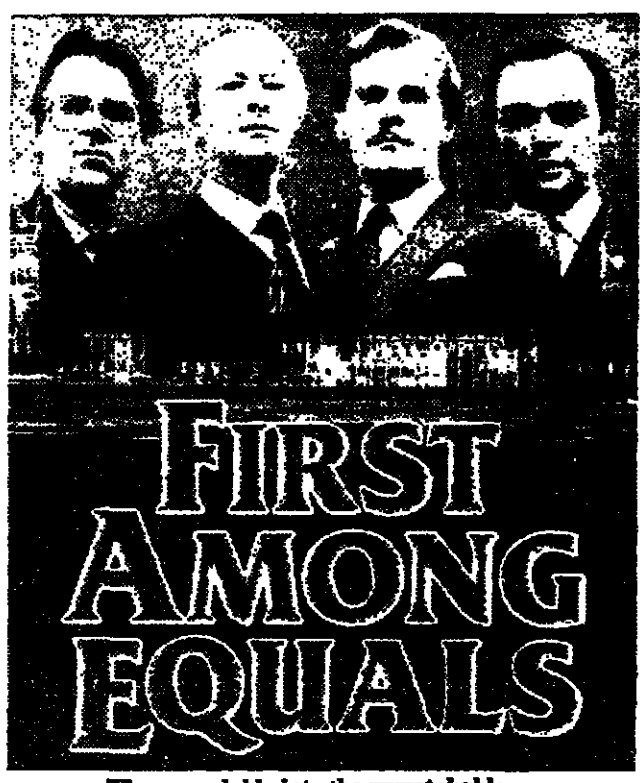
Finally two Turkey Tides that have not yet surfaced in this country, but deserve recording. Class of Nuke 'Em High promises high jinks and comical catastrophes when an entire school is exposed to radiation from a nuclear power plant fall-out...

David Robinson



Howard the Duck: a bird that did not take off

Worst among equals



The unreadable into the unwatchable

The production bears that centring because all six are young and young-looking, spontaneous in their behaviour and fresh of voice.

William Shimell is darkly suave and sensual as Marcello, and Anna Steiger, after a shaky start as Musetta, looks set to equal him in game-playing and vocal cunning.

William Shimell is darkly suave and sensual as Marcello, and Anna Steiger, after a shaky start as Musetta, looks set to equal him in game-playing and vocal cunning.

Paul Griffiths

My second hate was The Story of English (BBC2), a fulsome babble in weekly instalments. This sprawling historical survey of the mother tongue as she is spoke was a useful idea torpedoed by lack of ideas...

But the bronze medal in the 1986 Turkey Olympics went to England v Argentina, a

Martin Cropper

Self-appointed household gods

Much as we now look back at mercury cures, tobacco, and hallucinogens, so will future generations be astounded by how we have been fool enough to allow violence into our homes under the mask of pleasure...

Another cause for wonderment will be the madcap struggle that Desmond Wilcox and Esther Rantzen currently exert on our nation. To have these two as household gods must be some reflection on our home.

Esther, self-appointed moral guardian ("very, very interested in kinkamas and the Ethiopian firm") with the expression of a laughing bon-constrictor, and Desmond, mercilessly lighting on exposed flesh like a blowtorch to extract that one last tear...

Television criticism may be rightly regarded by many as the last refuge of would-be sages and sit-down comedians; but when it comes to ridding a world of its ill we tube-thumpers have one advantage over those more authoritative prophets of doom who double-up as clowns...

Brian Moore's iniquitous kan-



Terry Waite and Esther Rantzen: a taste for the centre stage

Desmond's case is the way he biscuit-worms his way into people's lives, to become an integral, even necessary part of their existence.

It is easy to denounce obvious individual horrors of the year, knowing that they have already been zapped by a touch of good on many a remot control: Brian Moore's iniquitous kan-



Terry Waite and Esther Rantzen: a taste for the centre stage

What other form could be plucked from our screen without the shedding of a Wilcox tear? Tim Rice, of course, and Angela Rippon. Alastair Burnet refutation, surely, of any left-wing bias attack: all those responsible for 'Allo, 'Allo, Clairvoyant, and The Jim Davidson Show...

Let there be no more televised award ceremonies, all mannered hypocrisy in a tuxedo of unctious, less they start giving televised awards for televised award ceremony. Let there be no more Royal travaglies lest we subliminally assume that foreign states only exist when blessed by the Windsors.

Andrew Hislop

and lastly Terry Waite straining to be Alastair Burnet. I do not know why the words "the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy" carry the charge they do, but whenever I hear them my stomach convulses. Ms Waite performs as excellent a job as Ms Rantzen, but in making centre stage his work behind the scenes he does both himself and this work a disservice. The single worst series this year consisted in the interviews Terry Waite conducted with people he much admires. Looking like a great St Bernard which had lost its brandy bottle, Waite inspected his hands, giggled, and talked a lot about himself. Invited to discuss her work for Save The Children, Princess Anne had to listen to Mr Waite's fantasies about becoming a musician. Nicholas Shakespeare

Tales of 1001 fantasies

The Wallet of Kai Lung by Ernest Bramah (Oxford, £4.95)

O most esteemed and discerning reader, learn of these gravity-removing and elaborately devised although not absolutely authentically Oriental tales from the mouth of the itinerant story-teller Kai Lung.

Highly esteemed by such not inconsiderable mandarins as J.B. Priestley and Hilaire Belloc, who is there who would stoop so near to the dusty ground beneath their bound and elegant feet as to complain that Ernest Bramah, the exceedingly industrious and versatile author of these printed leaves, had never actually been many li further East than Calais and knew not the first thing about Ancient China?

For the Bramah aficionado this may seem a poor imitation of his style, but this is how it appears to the uninitiated.

The Wallet of Kai Lung, the first in a series of Kai Lung books that brought Ernest Bramah fame and fortune and even a fan club, is written in a style which mixes Orientalized pseudo-archaic circumlocutions and bathetic modern colloquialisms.

He creates an absurd world of elaborate etiquette and ceremony, where true love,

heroism and honour struggle against greed and cowardice. Supernatural events are commonplace; but the main thing that hampers everyone's pursuit of a happy life is an all-pervading and senseless bureaucracy of present day proportions.

Annabel Edwards

PAPERBACKS

heroism and honour struggle against greed and cowardice. Supernatural events are commonplace; but the main thing that hampers everyone's pursuit of a happy life is an all-pervading and senseless bureaucracy of present day proportions.

Regardless of his lack of knowledge about China, Bramah includes all the popular conceptions and misconceptions of Imperial Chinese life; essentially a mixture of puppy-pie, tea drinking, and ancestor worship.

The stories themselves are entertaining. Bramah uses the plots of familiar folk tales, such as the simple lad who makes good by making the Emperor laugh (in this case, by means of a troupe of highly trained performing locusts), the return of the nobleman's long-lost son who has grown up as a goatherd, or a variation on the Midas story.

There are some delightful characters, such as the man whose job is to catch brilliantly coloured winged insects, and whose great skill is to be able to leap high in the air and select from any passing band the one he particularly desires.

Although bogus, the Oriental philosophy that informs each tale is often telling. Spurious sayings such as: "It is

whether to sell off part of the college estates, others are worried about an election to an Honorary Fellowship and who is going to get it, or whose bit of research discredits someone else's. Do people in Oxford colleges really live these thin little lives or is it a wholly artificial convention? Either way, it is hard to see who, outside the academic ghetto, could be entertained by these scenes of petty jealousy, Geriatric school stories are not really appealing.

Anne Barnes

A magic Miller mural

The American Clock Olivier

Arthur Miller's "mural" of the American Depression may have looked good at the Cottlesloe, but it looks nothing short of magnificent in its new setting: an epic work which has now found an epic stage.

Surveying the country from New York to Louisiana and deploying a company who through the playing area and auditorium as rioting farmworkers, relief queues, and dance hall customers, it expands to charge the building with life and re-enact the agony of a nation. It is hard to imagine how it was ever presented in studio conditions.

Its director, Peter Wood, has had a shaky year, but here at least he fully regains his ability to mobilize all the theatrical elements in projecting a text with maximum force and fluency.

Upstage, Timothy O'Brien presents the mural itself, a substratum of industrial scrap topped with an expanse of virgin land. The company assemble before this geological icon, walking and roller-skating under a slowly turning revolve under two giant street lamps. It is a wonderful image of the anonymous American melting pot before any individual faces emerge.

The weakest passages of the play are its pre-crash opening scenes which set up no more than a generalized sense of apprehension. Thereafter every scene tells a private as well as a public story.

This is not simply a question of autobiography. Much of the piece does relate to the Baums of Brooklyn, who are closely related to Miller's own family. But young Lee Baum (Neil Darglish) is there more to observe the lives of others than to tell his own story; and the play's most powerful episode - a re-enactment of the Iowa farmers' uprising, in

Anne Barnes

THEATRE

The American Clock Olivier

Arthur Miller's "mural" of the American Depression may have looked good at the Cottlesloe, but it looks nothing short of magnificent in its new setting: an epic work which has now found an epic stage.

Its director, Peter Wood, has had a shaky year, but here at least he fully regains his ability to mobilize all the theatrical elements in projecting a text with maximum force and fluency.

Upstage, Timothy O'Brien presents the mural itself, a substratum of industrial scrap topped with an expanse of virgin land. The company assemble before this geological icon, walking and roller-skating under a slowly turning revolve under two giant street lamps. It is a wonderful image of the anonymous American melting pot before any individual faces emerge.

The weakest passages of the play are its pre-crash opening scenes which set up no more than a generalized sense of apprehension. Thereafter every scene tells a private as well as a public story.

This is not simply a question of autobiography. Much of the piece does relate to the Baums of Brooklyn, who are closely related to Miller's own family. But young Lee Baum (Neil Darglish) is there more to observe the lives of others than to tell his own story; and the play's most powerful episode - a re-enactment of the Iowa farmers' uprising, in

Anne Barnes

Our Colourful Past ...

THE TIMES THE WORLD AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

Hundreds of colour illustrations and maps combine with a strong lucid narrative to bring vividly to life the story of mankind from the Ice Age to the Cold War.

Editor: Professor Geoffrey Parker Consultant: Professor Norman Stone Fantastic value: 480 pages, Hardback, £15 only. Available through bookshops now.

TIMES BOOKS SHOW THE FAMILY THE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

THE TIMES CONCISE ATLAS OF THE WORLD

Completely revised 1986 concise edition of the world famous Atlas £25 Slipcased Available now through book shops

Irving Wardle

TURN'S EVENT INTO AN OCCASION

December 20-26

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

The pleasure of their company

Great party-givers are made, not born. Shona Crawford Poole spoke to three stylish - and very different - hostesses about the elusive art of entertaining

In the hurry-burry of the seasonal bacchanal there will be many to agree with whoever wrote 'the hell of hosting is that one can know what things make a good hostess and still be quite unable to achieve them.'

The heyday of the hostess as one who entertained sumptuously or modestly in her own home was Edwardian. Today's most talked-about parties and dinners are given by women who entertain without the armies of servants their grandmothers might have called on. Here are some whose styles are individual and whose invitations prized.

In her first Smythson's leatherbound guest and menu book Caroline Waldegrave recorded: 'A policy decision has been taken by William. We are to have a dinner party every Thursday.' That was in January 1978. An entry six months later notes: 'Getting very tired. This session seems very long.'

If she should be called upon to write her memoirs - and, as the wife of a younger statesman, an impeccably pedigreed minister in the Department of the Environment and Conservative member for Bristol West, the possibility is not unthinkable - what fun she will have. For not only does she record her menus, guest lists and seating plans, but what she wore and the principal subjects of the evening's conversation: 'Politics always comes into it.'

For the evening in May 1979, when her husband arrived home in Kensington unannounced and accompanied by five fellow freshman MPs, she rustled up a hot orange soufflé.

On May 5, 1980, the night the Iranian Embassy siege was lifted, she gave her guests pain de poisson in a lobster mould, vinegar chicken and bilberry tart. 'We watched television and were proud of the SAS and being British.'

There have been disappointments, too. The entry of April 5 1982 notes that 'Frances Pym was to have come to dinner but he was made Foreign Secretary instead.'

And, with unflinching candour of the dinner she gave a week after their first daughter was born, 'The food was very nasty. I couldn't concentrate.'

Now there are two daughters and a son, ranging in age from two to six. Earlier this year her first solo cookery

book was published, and she has little time for fuss after a full day as managing director and co-principal of Leith's School Of Food And Wine. She swears that her husband chooses and buys all her clothes without her assistance.

SCENE SETTING

'I entertain very little in Bristol and there it has to be very informal. In London, it is in the dining room. We have eight or 14. For 14 I bring in the kitchen table and William and I sit at separate tables.'

GUESTS

'Obviously I entertain politicians, but not all Tories and not too many MPs at any one time or they take over the conversation completely. Also they often leave in time to vote at 10pm in the House of Commons. As a result I tend to remember occasions by what the vote was.'

'Otherwise our guests are usually other cooks like Joceline Dimbleby - who is an old friend - or journalists like her husband, David.'

DRINK

'I am surprised by how much MPs drink. We don't drink very grand wine. Instead of Montrachet we drink Muscadet and instead of the very grand claret, we would like, we have Fleurie. The pocket dictates.'

FOOD

'I play a sort of trick on them all and see if I can get away with health food. And it does work: I have rationalized it to the point where it imitates ordinary food.'

'We might have a warm salad, then poached chicken breast with a red pepper sauce, then a pretty arrangement of fresh fruit or a sorbet. I have just started doing biscuit cups made of filo pastry filled with fruit and people have no idea that they are practically fatless.'

'I used to make French dressing with yoghurt and all that but I have stopped because I just don't think it is as nice as oil.'

FREQUENCY

'We have people for dinner less often now - about every



Caroline Waldegrave: 'I have always relied on William to take charge of the conversation'

three weeks. Of course there are three birthday parties, one for each of the children. I share a birthday with William and we used to have a joint party for that, a large dinner party. I don't like cocktail parties and don't go to them.'

RULES

'I like to be well-prepared so that I can be relaxed. I think we are quite good at making busy people relax. I am not sure I have rules at all. I have always relied on William to take charge of the conversation. I am lost if he is not there when the evening starts.'

If food and conversation at the Waldegraves could not be more modern, the formalities are the traditional ones. 'We only separate if there are lots of MPs or if the point of the evening is work, and then not necessarily by sex.'

GUESTS

'I do no business while entertaining. I devote a lot of time to my business and I keep a lot of time for my friends. But I don't mix the two.'

DRINK

'I notice that people are drinking less. Hardly anyone drinks anything except wine before dinner. Then they carry on with wine, or sometimes water, through dinner.'

'I think that people now want to be in control. You don't get away any more with a heavy lunch with lots of drink and being inefficient in your job. And in the morning, if you are not on good form and up quite early, it does not do.'

FOOD

'I give people cold food, warm sometimes but very rarely something hot. I find people work late. Sometimes they have to go and see someone for a drink. I like to have done all the work and not to be worried about the food.'



Cressida Bell: 'I only want to give parties where everyone who comes says it is the best party they have ever been to'

SCENE SETTING

'I love candles, everywhere. I like candlelight because it is very soft, but you need a lot of candles. If you have only one or two candles you have a very hard light. Sometimes in winter I light candles for lunch. I put night-lights in little glass cups - nothing smart.'

So I settle for five or six dishes - all at the same time - and pudding, cheese and fruit.

'I rarely offer meat as such although it goes into other things. I might have a Chinese salad with steamed spinach. I always have a pasta dish with rosemary, basil or thyme. Then a vegetable dish, with which I will use some nuts. I try to make all my dishes different by experimenting with different herbs or nuts or oils, but in fact it is quite simple.'

'People go into the kitchen to get the food, two or three at a time. We really are very informal.'

FREQUENCY

'I don't have a dinner party, as such, very often: once every 10 days, say, usually for six to eight people. I do not have larger numbers unless it is on the spur of the moment, then, if it is 12 I love it. I dislike planning more than two or three days in advance.'

RULES

'There are no rules.'



Nathalie Hambro: 'I don't have a dinner party, as such, very often; once every 10 days, say'

Cressida Bell's parties, it has been said, cost her guests an arm and a leg just to get through the front door. Typically, an invitation will command 'dress carnival style, bring champagne'. She says, with unshakable assurance, that 'people have got used to the fact that it will be worth their while.'

The daughter of art historian Professor Quentin Bell and granddaughter of Bloomsbury luminaries Clive and Vanessa Bell, she designs and prints bold textiles in darkest Hackney, last pool of affordable studio and workshop space near central London.

Her parties are as dramatic as her work. A black-and-white bash - even the food was two-tone - for 150 marked her final year at the Royal College of Art. When her birthday coincided with a royal wedding, there was a party for which the guests had to dress as kings and queens.

At the moment lack of suitable party space is cramping her larger-than-life entertaining style, which ideally involves no fewer than a hundred guests, a theme, costumes, decorations, eating, drinking, dancing and dawn ('One must not forget to have done something for lunch the next day').

She says: 'I suppose I only want to give parties where everyone who comes to it says it is the best party they have ever been to. One is trying to surpass oneself all the time.'

SCENE SETTING

'The visual side of my parties is very important. When I have a theme and everyone has dressed up, the whole entrance thing becomes very important. People who have decided to be too clever and worn something silly have apologized and said they felt completely out of place. If you are not wearing what I have asked you to wear, you are not part of the action. When you walk into a room and you look wonderful and everyone else looks wonderful that starts you off really well.'

'I like the dressing up. Getting the men to dress up is very important. If you can get them to do it, you know you are really on to a winner. 'I've seen whole rooms full of people - who have never waltzed in their lives - really get going, carried along by the occasion.'

GUESTS

'A completely mixed bunch of painters, designers, television people, lawyers, writers - all sorts. I often mix them quite radically.'

'I still ask my guests to bring it because I can't afford it. I provide a certain amount.'

DRINK

'At a sit-down dinner party the food is absolutely all-important. For a party-party it has just got to be nice. I never really enjoy eating at parties because you can't concentrate on the food.'

FOOD

'If I had loads and loads of money I suppose my parties would not be nearly so good because I would end up doing

all the grand and conventional things. A shoestring doesn't hurt.'

FREQUENCY

'There is a distinct lack of parties this Christmas. I thought it was just me, but a number of people who always have a Christmas party are not having one this year. I don't know why not.'

RULES

'Are there any? I suppose the only unforgivable thing is stinginess. And paper plates.'

Advertisement for Graham's Late Bottled Vintage wine. It features a cartoon illustration of people at a party and a bottle of wine. Text includes 'GRAHAM'S - FOR PANTOMIME OR PARTY!', 'GRAHAM'S LATE BOTTLED VINTAGE', and 'TURNS ANY EVENT INTO AN OCCASION'.

Advertisement for Saturday films. It says 'Boxing clever. Films to watch out for on television this Christmas - page 14'. It includes a list of films: Bridge, Chess, Concerts, Open, Radio, Dance, Shopping, Drink, Television, Eating Out, Times Cook, Galaxies, Gardening, Out and About, Open, Radio, Shopping, Television, Times Cook, Travel.

Advertisement for The Big Pre-Christmas Fur Sale. It features a photo of a man in a fur coat and lists various fur items with prices. Text includes 'THE BIG PRE-CHRISTMAS FUR Sale', 'A fabulous selection of Hundreds of superb quality furs', 'YOUR CHANCE TO BUY THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS PRESENT EVER - NOW', and 'LONDON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL'.

old gods

World Illustrated

Advertisement for World Illustrated magazine. It features a large illustration of a globe and text including 'WORLD ILLUSTRATED', 'STORIES', and 'TURNING ANY EVENT INTO AN OCCASION'.

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

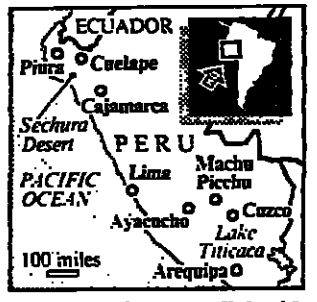
Preserving the last rays of a golden past

Away from Peru's well-trodden paths of crumbling history, Nicholas Shakespeare discovers a country of dusty beauty

Admiral Caferatta lay dying in a hospital bed when I arrived in Lima. A former commander of the naval forces in Ayacucho, and now a banker, he had been shot - though not without resistance - by a group of terrorists led by a woman dressed as a school-girl. This group had since been captured. (Children playing in the suburb where they fled noticed what seemed to be red paint in the sand. Paying them for any other drops they discovered, the police found themselves on a macabre trail to the terrorists' door.)

On television there was footage of President Garcia by the Admiral's bed, investing him with the Order of the Sun. For a nation of past masters in the art of ritualizing defeat, it was another sorry celebration. "Lima the horrible," complained the surrealist poet Cesar Moro. And it is the *garcia*, a moist London fog which descends for half the year, combines with a heavier atmosphere of civil war - a war waged against those invisible enemies, the Senderistas. The curfew falls at one in the morning with an effect on social life which can only be circumvented by holding all-night parties. Recently, a new trend has sprung up for those wishing to get home earlier. It involves the private purchase of ambulances.

But Lima is not Peru, as the government stresses in newspaper advertisements. While this message is part of an attempt to stem the migration from the mountains to the outlying slums (now estimated at 500 a day) it is also, thank goodness, the truth. The road to Cuzco, Machu Picchu and Arequipa may be as famous and over-trodden as ever. But less well known and



ton-choops. On the wall, beside his heavy furniture, are photos showing the candle-lit interior of *el glorioso monitor Huascar* and a black and gold sword donated, as a testimony of their profound admiration, by a group of Peruvian ladies living in Europe.



Weaving magic spells: a native woman (left) makes a colourful shawl; the impressive, palm-filled Plaza de Armas (top) in Arequipa, and (bottom) life carries on as it has for centuries in an old Peruvian village



should you put your trust," said the guide, dashing for cover as the mist rolled from the mountain's back like sweat off a hot shirt.

for gold. Occasionally, beside the grey coastal road, an adobe mound, rubbed into insignificance by the desert winds, denotes an old settlement. To find a more impressive testimony, one must travel inland and high into the Andes. Cuelape lies a day and a half's drive from Piura along a precipitous dirt track that plunges down cactus slopes to the Utcubamba. After Machu Picchu, it is the most spectacular ruin in Peru. The setting is probably more spectacular, on top of a mountain that commands a view and strains the eye in every direction. Yet few know of its existence. (Two tourists was the previous month's tally. One, an Air Force officer called Muenko, had sprayed his name in purple on the yellow wall.)

Three times as many stones as the Great Pyramid were used to build Cuelape, the capital of the warlike Chachapoyas who inhabited it until the 1560s and worshipped snakes. Held in fee by the Incas, the Chachapoyans

were once rife. Human bones lie everywhere. Little excavation has been done and the locals do not come and dig at night for fear of spirits. Mysterious, defiant, awesome, Cuelape is a city still holding its breath. To take its pulse one must make the three-hour walk in the morning, for in mid-afternoon the clear sky goes the colour of dried bread and it pours. "Neither in woman's tears nor in the skies of the mountain

Next door, his Indian subjects, with babies on their backs and hats on their heads, queue at the Atahualpa bus station. They wear lilac paper flowers on the rim of their straw hats. For it is *el dia de las muertas*. They have just come from the ornate church of Sao Francisco, dipping fingers in the empty shell-shaped bowl of holy water. On the pavement, newspapers announce the death of Admiral Caferatta.

TRAVEL NEWS

Crossing off high costs

Sally Linn's Ramsgate-Dunwich ferry link is offering free Channel crossings for up to three children travelling with motorists next summer. A family of two adults and three children travelling in a car of up to 4.5 metres will pay £156 for a peak return crossing in August, or £114 for an off-peak, sailing in a 4-metre car. Information: 0845 295522 or 01-499 2240

Cruising the tracks

British Rail will be operating weekend land "cruises" through some of its most scenic lines in Scotland throughout 1987. Prices range from £140 to £195 and include all meals, overnight accommodation and sightseeing excursions. The trains, made up of air-conditioned sleeping cars and refurbished Pullman-style day coaches, will leave St Pancras on Friday evenings, picking up at St Albans, Leicester, Derby and Sheffield. Bookings can be made only through Pullman Rail (0543 254076).

Travelscene will be one of the few operators offering holidays based on Spain's paradises next year. The fly-drive tours use pre-booked accommodation in Catalonia, Castilia and Andalusia, with flights from Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester. One-week holidays, including car hire, range from £359 to £479. Information: 01-935 1025.

Hotting up for the snow

Ski holiday operators are announcing special January offers to combat slow bookings due to doubts over snow conditions. Leicester-based Vacations (0533 539100) is charging a flat-rate £99 for a one-week apartment holiday with air travel from Gatwick to any of its resorts in the French Alps.

Taking the free way

Free car hire on all stayput holidays in Florida next year is offered in a new programme from Pan American Thriftway, a subsidiary of the US airline. Travellers who do not wish to take up the offer qualify for a £15 holiday-price reduction in the holiday price. Information: 01-629 8262.

Philip Ray

TRAVEL NOTES

Flights: Journey Latin America offer the cheapest fares from London. The £500 return flight on Viasa takes 22 hours to Lima (via Caracas, Bogota and Madrid). Contact 16 Devonshire Road, London W4 (01-747 3108). Internal flights: Unpredictable, though it is essential to confirm your tickets at every available opportunity. Hotels: Lima: Cesar's, expensive; Bolivar, Trujillo: Opt (unlike most hotels outside Lima, this has hot water and

also the best restaurant in town). About £10 a night. Piura: Hotel Turistas in Plaza de Armas. Chachapoyas (for Cuelape): There are four, all much of a muckness. Cajamarca: Hotel de Turistas, Plaza de Armas. Reading: *The South American Handbook* is invaluable, but do not be put off by the warnings, on every page, against thieves and pickpockets. Travel tip: Carry documents and money in an elastic bandage round your leg.

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

Grid of travel advertisements including: OVERSEAS TRAVEL, AUSTRALIA, SELF-CATERING CARIBBEAN, WINTER SPORTS, ACTIVITY HOLIDAYS, HEART OF ENGLAND, LONDON, EAST ANGLIA, SUSSEX, WALES, CHRISTMAS GREETINGS, CINEMAS, WINTER BREAKS, CHRISTMAS AT CASTLE KEEP HOTEL AND RESTAURANT, SELF-CATERING SPAIN, WINTER SPORTS, HOLIDAYS ABROAD, VENICE HOTEL LA FENICE ET DES ARTISTES.

CHRISTMAS DEADLINES Advertisements for the following issues: Saturday 27th December, Monday 29th December, Tuesday 30th December, Tuesday 23rd December 6pm. To place your advertisements please telephone 01-481 4000.

TRAVEL 2

Miles of smiles in sun valley

Cindy Selby goes real cross-country skiing on the Swiss and French borders

Someone suggested we visit a slate mine. In fact, it was M Neuveville, manager of our Hotel Fleur de Neige...

Were these to be sacrificed for some gloomy old cave? No. We decided the skiing was far more important.

Our chosen resort, Chatel, is a traditional Savoyard village of wooden chalets. Even when it becomes the target of skiers from nearby Geneva at the weekend, there is no congestion on the slopes since the terrain is vast.

The Portes du Soleil takes its name from the ridge at the heart of a dozen resorts scattered on either side of the Franco-Swiss border between Lake Lemane and Mont Blanc.

The resorts have joined up to form the largest linked ski circuit in the world. A single ski-pass gives one access to the whole network.

Skiers can explore a new valley every day and you are constantly zig-zagging over the border between the seven French and five Swiss resorts which make up the chain. It gives a new meaning to the term "cross-country skiing".

On one of our days we were able to ski the broad slopes of Chatel and Super-Chatel (above the tree line) as well as a circuit within the circuit, a 45-mile tour. From Chatel we meandered down to Morgins and Champoussin (Swiss), then up to the panoramic Portes du Soleil ridge.

continue on the inner circuit to the modern resort of Avoriaz and on to Chatel.

Skiers cannot rely on adequate snow in December or April, and even in March the bottoms of the runs can be mushy.

The major bonus is the giant and varied terrain but Chatel, in particular, has further attractions. Being French it is slightly cheaper than the Swiss resorts.

Accommodation in Chatel is in hotels or apartments. The resort is ideal for families since it has a ski-kindergarten for 3 to 8-year-olds and even a nursery for babies.

Beginners, young and old, will find the ski instructors competent and caring. The Chatel ski school assembles on the nursery slope right by the Hotel Fleur de Neige. One can ski back here, too, at the end of the day.

On one of our days we were able to ski the broad slopes of Chatel and Super-Chatel (above the tree line) as well as a circuit within the circuit, a 45-mile tour. From Chatel we meandered down to Morgins and Champoussin (Swiss), then up to the panoramic Portes du Soleil ridge.

From there, an easy piste leads down to Les Crosets. Then it was on to the Chavante, better known as the Wall, a formidable piste reaching down from the highest peak in the region.

TRAVEL NOTES

Global organize skiing holidays to Chatel, Champoussin and Avoriaz. A week, half-board, at the Hotel Fleur de Neige costs from £244 in January to £342 in February.

Walker Art Gallery: Children's quiz with which to tour the gallery entitled The 12 Days of Christmas.

Manchester City Art Galleries: Gallery Gallop: A Christmas Cavalcade of Horses is a holiday activity linked to the Alfred Munnings exhibition.

National Museum of Wales: Children's workshop with more than 100 different exhibitions from the permanent collection to "discover" including mining tools.

Royal Scottish Museum: Art competition for children under 16 - paper, pencil and rubber provided.

Liverpool Museum: Anglo-Saxon activities for 8-11 year olds with dressing-up sessions and workshops.

Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery: Christmas tree decoration workshops for all the family.

National Maritime Museum: Christmas Planarium shows - The Stars at Christmas and Exploring the Planets.

Hampton Court Palace: Four workshops - in date order: Mask making - learn how to sculpt and make latex masks.

Museum of London: Programme of children's events and family sessions to coincide with the current exhibition of dolls.

Barbican Centre: Children's Christmas party with films and live entertainment.

Science Museum: Wizards of Steam - a series of demonstrations showing how concepts of steam were put into practice.

Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood: Story-telling sessions and workshops based on making Christmas decorations and sweets.

Horniman Museum: Art and craft workshops for children aged eight and over.

Commonwealth Institute: Anansi and the Sky God - Caribbean storytelling with music, dance and plenty of audience participation.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Victorian Christmas celebration with ballads, carols, brass band, music hall, pantomime, games and a visit from Santa Claus.

Tate Gallery: Christmas Tree Guessing Game with prizes. Lecture by Laurence Bradbury - Prodigies in Paint - explaining how famous artists painted when young.

National Gallery: Christmas quiz - Fiery Tales - looks at candles, bonfires, flaming torches and other fiery elements in the gallery's paintings.

Royal Opera House: The Snowman - a musical for children aged 8-12.

London Road, Forest Hill, London, SE23 (01-699 2398).

Dec 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, 31, Jan 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £1, child 50p. Pre-book.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OUTINGS Fun and games for busy bodies

Many museums and art galleries run special events for children of all ages throughout the Christmas holidays, as do some theatres and civic or community centres.

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM: Art competition for children under 16 - paper, pencil and rubber provided.

LIVERPOOL MUSEUM: Anglo-Saxon activities for 8-11 year olds with dressing-up sessions and workshops.

BIRMINGHAM MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY: Christmas tree decoration workshops for all the family.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY: Quiz sheet - Understanding Portraits: The Killgrew Test plus a series of drama workshops.

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM: Christmas Planarium shows - The Stars at Christmas and Exploring the Planets.

HAMPTON COURT PALACE: Four workshops - in date order: Mask making - learn how to sculpt and make latex masks.

MUSEUM OF LONDON: Programme of children's events and family sessions to coincide with the current exhibition of dolls.



Ice and a slice of clown capers: The Snowman (top) at the Barbican and circus world entertainment in Battersea park

This includes story-telling sessions, practical workshops for dressing peg and paper dolls and on Jan 4 ballet workshops, learning steps from Coppelia with members of the Sadler's Wells Ballet Company.

NATIONAL ARMY MUSEUM: For children and families, gallery trails for the permanent exhibition plus Only a Scrap of Paper? - an activity sheet showing how to "age" a map and do old fashioned writing.

HORNIMAN MUSEUM: Art and craft workshops for children aged eight and over, each with a different theme.

COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE: Anansi and the Sky God - Caribbean storytelling with music, dance and plenty of audience participation.

TATE GALLERY: Christmas Tree Guessing Game with prizes. Lecture by Laurence Bradbury - Prodigies in Paint - explaining how famous artists painted when young.

NATIONAL GALLERY: Christmas quiz - Fiery Tales - looks at candles, bonfires, flaming torches and other fiery elements in the gallery's paintings.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: The Snowman - a musical for children aged 8-12.

LONDON ROAD, FOREST HILL, LONDON, SE23 (01-699 2398). Dec 22, 23, 27, 29, 30, 31, Jan 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £1, child 50p. Pre-book.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

Dec 29, 30, 31, Jan 2, 3, 11am-12.30pm. Adult £2.50, child £1.

IN THE GARDEN



Blue spruce: like most Christmas trees it is much happier outside in its natural habitat

Top shots for the pot

I would not be so dismal as to criticize the Great Norwegian Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square or those which have become the focus of seasonal celebrations in towns and villages all over the country.

The needle drop, which is so irritating to the householder, represents a great trauma for a little tree brought inside to the hot conditions of our living rooms as it tries desperately to prevent moisture loss.

Some nurserymen recommended instead the Monterey cypress, Cupressus macrocarpa, which has yellow-green foliage. This hardy tree does fairly well if it can be outdoors for most of the year and its pot to three weeks.

A particularly beautiful conifer is the Japanese cedar Cryptomeria japonica, which comes in dwarf varieties like Elegans Nana and grow only to about three feet. It has the most delicate feathery foliage which turns red-bronze in winter.

CHESS

Fading fortunes of a tired champion

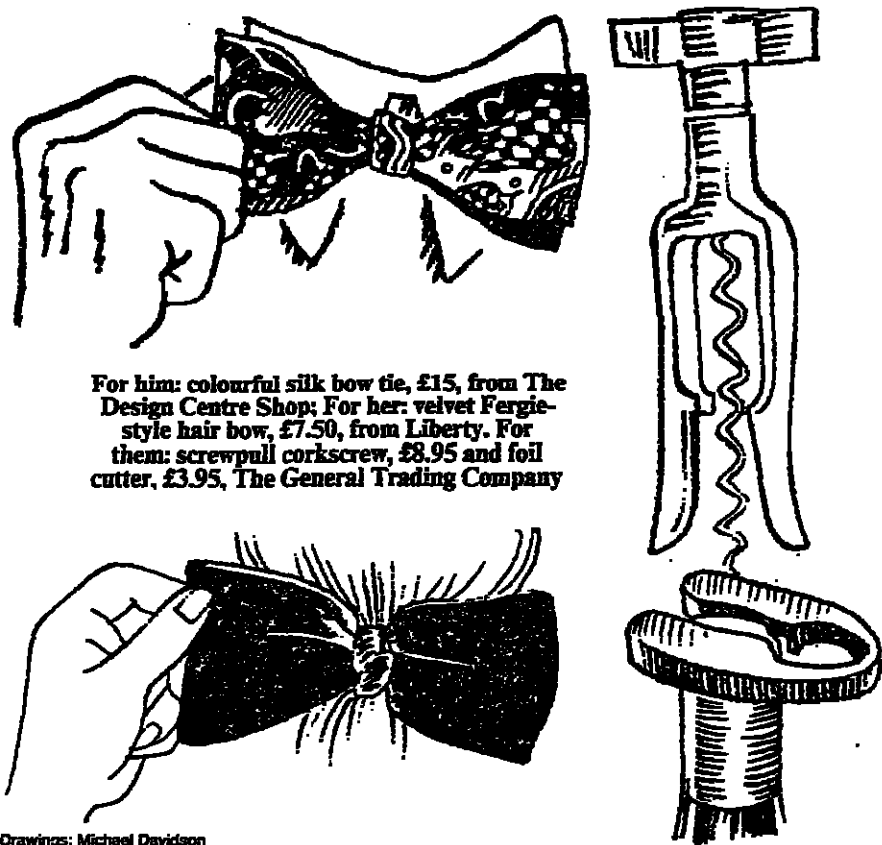
Will Karpov win his Candidates' match with Sokolov early in 1987? On paper, the former world champion must be the clear favourite, but after the exertions of his latest title match, the set-back at Tilburg and the Dubai Olympiad, Karpov is beginning to look exhausted.

A poll of Grandmasters at Dusseldorf revealed a few who favoured the chances of the relatively inexperienced Sokolov. This is the kind of game which is currently causing headaches for Karpov supporters.

White: Ljubojevic; Black: Karpov. Ruy Lopez, Yugoslavia v USSR, Dubai Olympiad 1986. 3. Bxc3 Bxc3 4. Bxc3 Bxc3 5. Bxc3 Bxc3 6. Bxc3 Bxc3 7. Bxc3 Bxc3 8. Bxc3 Bxc3 9. Bxc3 Bxc3 10. Bxc3 Bxc3 11. Bxc3 Bxc3 12. Bxc3 Bxc3 13. Bxc3 Bxc3 14. Bxc3 Bxc3 15. Bxc3 Bxc3 16. Bxc3 Bxc3 17. Bxc3 Bxc3 18. Bxc3 Bxc3 19. Bxc3 Bxc3 20. Bxc3 Bxc3 21. Bxc3 Bxc3 22. Bxc3 Bxc3 23. Bxc3 Bxc3 24. Bxc3 Bxc3 25. Bxc3 Bxc3 26. Bxc3 Bxc3 27. Bxc3 Bxc3 28. Bxc3 Bxc3 29. Bxc3 Bxc3 30. Bxc3 Bxc3 31. Bxc3 Bxc3 32. Bxc3 Bxc3 33. Bxc3 Bxc3 34. Bxc3 Bxc3 35. Bxc3 Bxc3 36. Bxc3 Bxc3 37. Bxc3 Bxc3 38. Bxc3 Bxc3 39. Bxc3 Bxc3 40. Bxc3 Bxc3 41. Bxc3 Bxc3 42. Bxc3 Bxc3 43. Bxc3 Bxc3 44. Bxc3 Bxc3 45. Bxc3 Bxc3 46. Bxc3 Bxc3 47. Bxc3 Bxc3 48. Bxc3 Bxc3 49. Bxc3 Bxc3 50. Bxc3 Bxc3 51. Bxc3 Bxc3 52. Bxc3 Bxc3 53. Bxc3 Bxc3 54. Bxc3 Bxc3 55. Bxc3 Bxc3 56. Bxc3 Bxc3 57. Bxc3 Bxc3 58. Bxc3 Bxc3 59. Bxc3 Bxc3 60. Bxc3 Bxc3 61. Bxc3 Bxc3 62. Bxc3 Bxc3 63. Bxc3 Bxc3 64. Bxc3 Bxc3 65. Bxc3 Bxc3 66. Bxc3 Bxc3 67. Bxc3 Bxc3 68. Bxc3 Bxc3 69. Bxc3 Bxc3 70. Bxc3 Bxc3 71. Bxc3 Bxc3 72. Bxc3 Bxc3 73. Bxc3 Bxc3 74. Bxc3 Bxc3 75. Bxc3 Bxc3 76. Bxc3 Bxc3 77. Bxc3 Bxc3 78. Bxc3 Bxc3 79. Bxc3 Bxc3 80. Bxc3 Bxc3 81. Bxc3 Bxc3 82. Bxc3 Bxc3 83. Bxc3 Bxc3 84. Bxc3 Bxc3 85. Bxc3 Bxc3 86. Bxc3 Bxc3 87. Bxc3 Bxc3 88. Bxc3 Bxc3 89. Bxc3 Bxc3 90. Bxc3 Bxc3 91. Bxc3 Bxc3 92. Bxc3 Bxc3 93. Bxc3 Bxc3 94. Bxc3 Bxc3 95. Bxc3 Bxc3 96. Bxc3 Bxc3 97. Bxc3 Bxc3 98. Bxc3 Bxc3 99. Bxc3 Bxc3 100. Bxc3 Bxc3 101. Bxc3 Bxc3 102. Bxc3 Bxc3 103. Bxc3 Bxc3 104. Bxc3 Bxc3 105. Bxc3 Bxc3 106. Bxc3 Bxc3 107. Bxc3 Bxc3 108. Bxc3 Bxc3 109. Bxc3 Bxc3 110. Bxc3 Bxc3 111. Bxc3 Bxc3 112. Bxc3 Bxc3 113. Bxc3 Bxc3 114. Bxc3 Bxc3 115. Bxc3 Bxc3 116. Bxc3 Bxc3 117. Bxc3 Bxc3 118. Bxc3 Bxc3 119. Bxc3 Bxc3 120. Bxc3 Bxc3 121. Bxc3 Bxc3 122. Bxc3 Bxc3 123. Bxc3 Bxc3 124. Bxc3 Bxc3 125. Bxc3 Bxc3 126. Bxc3 Bxc3 127. Bxc3 Bxc3 128. Bxc3 Bxc3 129. Bxc3 Bxc3 130. Bxc3 Bxc3 131. Bxc3 Bxc3 132. Bxc3 Bxc3 133. Bxc3 Bxc3 134. Bxc3 Bxc3 135. Bxc3 Bxc3 136. Bxc3 Bxc3 137. Bxc3 Bxc3 138. Bxc3 Bxc3 139. Bxc3 Bxc3 140. Bxc3 Bxc3 141. Bxc3 Bxc3 142. Bxc3 Bxc3 143. Bxc3 Bxc3 144. Bxc3 Bxc3 145. Bxc3 Bxc3 146. Bxc3 Bxc3 147. Bxc3 Bxc3 148. Bxc3 Bxc3 149. Bxc3 Bxc3 150. Bxc3 Bxc3 151. Bxc3 Bxc3 152. Bxc3 Bxc3 153. Bxc3 Bxc3 154. Bxc3 Bxc3 155. Bxc3 Bxc3 156. Bxc3 Bxc3 157. Bxc3 Bxc3 158. Bxc3 Bxc3 159. Bxc3 Bxc3 160. Bxc3 Bxc3 161. Bxc3 Bxc3 162. Bxc3 Bxc3 163. Bxc3 Bxc3 164. Bxc3 Bxc3 165. Bxc3 Bxc3 166. Bxc3 Bxc3 167. Bxc3 Bxc3 168. Bxc3 Bxc3 169. Bxc3 Bxc3 170. Bxc3 Bxc3 171. Bxc3 Bxc3 172. Bxc3 Bxc3 173. Bxc3 Bxc3 174. Bxc3 Bxc3 175. Bxc3 Bxc3 176. Bxc3 Bxc3 177. Bxc3 Bxc3 178. Bxc3 Bxc3 179. Bxc3 Bxc3 180. Bxc3 Bxc3 181. Bxc3 Bxc3 182. Bxc3 Bxc3 183. Bxc3 Bxc3 184. Bxc3 Bxc3 185. Bxc3 Bxc3 186. Bxc3 Bxc3 187. Bxc3 Bxc3 188. Bxc3 Bxc3 189. Bxc3 Bxc3 190. Bxc3 Bxc3 191. Bxc3 Bxc3 192. Bxc3 Bxc3 193. Bxc3 Bxc3 194. Bxc3 Bxc3 195. Bxc3 Bxc3 196. Bxc3 Bxc3 197. Bxc3 Bxc3 198. Bxc3 Bxc3 199. Bxc3 Bxc3 200. Bxc3 Bxc3 201. Bxc3 Bxc3 202. Bxc3 Bxc3 203. Bxc3 Bxc3 204. Bxc3 Bxc3 205. Bxc3 Bxc3 206. Bxc3 Bxc3 207. Bxc3 Bxc3 208. Bxc3 Bxc3 209. Bxc3 Bxc3 210. Bxc3 Bxc3 211. Bxc3 Bxc3 212. Bxc3 Bxc3 213. Bxc3 Bxc3 214. Bxc3 Bxc3 215. Bxc3 Bxc3 216. Bxc3 Bxc3 217. Bxc3 Bxc3 218. Bxc3 Bxc3 219. Bxc3 Bxc3 220. Bxc3 Bxc3 221. Bxc3 Bxc3 222. Bxc3 Bxc3 223. Bxc3 Bxc3 224. Bxc3 Bxc3 225. Bxc3 Bxc3 226. Bxc3 Bxc3 227. Bxc3 Bxc3 228. Bxc3 Bxc3 229. Bxc3 Bxc3 230. Bxc3 Bxc3 231. Bxc3 Bxc3 232. Bxc3 Bxc3 233. Bxc3 Bxc3 234. Bxc3 Bxc3 235. Bxc3 Bxc3 236. Bxc3 Bxc3 237. Bxc3 Bxc3 238. Bxc3 Bxc3 239. Bxc3 Bxc3 240. Bxc3 Bxc3 241. Bxc3 Bxc3 242. Bxc3 Bxc3 243. Bxc3 Bxc3 244. Bxc3 Bxc3 245. Bxc3 Bxc3 246. Bxc3 Bxc3 247. Bxc3 Bxc3 248. Bxc3 Bxc3 249. Bxc3 Bxc3 250. Bxc3 Bxc3 251. Bxc3 Bxc3 252. Bxc3 Bxc3 253. Bxc3 Bxc3 254. Bxc3 Bxc3 255. Bxc3 Bxc3 256. Bxc3 Bxc3 257. Bxc3 Bxc3 258. Bxc3 Bxc3 259. Bxc3 Bxc3 260. Bxc3 Bxc3 261. Bxc3 Bxc3 262. Bxc3 Bxc3 263. Bxc3 Bxc3 264. Bxc3 Bxc3 265. Bxc3 Bxc3 266. Bxc3 Bxc3 267. Bxc3 Bxc3 268. Bxc3 Bxc3 269. Bxc3 Bxc3 270. Bxc3 Bxc3 271. Bxc3 Bxc3 272. Bxc3 Bxc3 273. Bxc3 Bxc3 274. Bxc3 Bxc3 275. Bxc3 Bxc3 276. Bxc3 Bxc3 277. Bxc3 Bxc3 278. Bxc3 Bxc3 279. Bxc3 Bxc3 280. Bxc3 Bxc3 281. Bxc3 Bxc3 282. Bxc3 Bxc3 283. Bxc3 Bxc3 284. Bxc3 Bxc3 285. Bxc3 Bxc3 286. Bxc3 Bxc3 287. Bxc3 Bxc3 288. Bxc3 Bxc3 289. Bxc3 Bxc3 290. Bxc3 Bxc3 291. Bxc3 Bxc3 292. Bxc3 Bxc3 293. Bxc3 Bxc3 294. Bxc3 Bxc3 295. Bxc3 Bxc3 296. Bxc3 Bxc3 297. Bxc3 Bxc3 298. Bxc3 Bxc3 299. Bxc3 Bxc3 300. Bxc3 Bxc3 301. Bxc3 Bxc3 302. Bxc3 Bxc3 303. Bxc3 Bxc3 304. Bxc3 Bxc3 305. Bxc3 Bxc3 306. Bxc3 Bxc3 307. Bxc3 Bxc3 308. Bxc3 Bxc3 309. Bxc3 Bxc3 310. Bxc3 Bxc3 311. Bxc3 Bxc3 312. Bxc3 Bxc3 313. Bxc3 Bxc3 314. Bxc3 Bxc3 315. Bxc3 Bxc3 316. Bxc3 Bxc3 317. Bxc3 Bxc3 318. Bxc3 Bxc3 319. Bxc3 Bxc3 320. Bxc3 Bxc3 321. Bxc3 Bxc3 322. Bxc3 Bxc3 323. Bxc3 Bxc3 324. Bxc3 Bxc3 325. Bxc3 Bxc3 326. Bxc3 Bxc3 327. Bxc3 Bxc3 328. Bxc3 Bxc3 329. Bxc3 Bxc3 330. Bxc3 Bxc3 331. Bxc3 Bxc3 332. Bxc3 Bxc3 333. Bxc3 Bxc3 334. Bxc3 Bxc3 335. Bxc3 Bxc3 336. Bxc3 Bxc3 337. Bxc3 Bxc3 338. Bxc3 Bxc3 339. Bxc3 Bxc3 340. Bxc3 Bxc3 341. Bxc3 Bxc3 342. Bxc3 Bxc3 343. Bxc3 Bxc3 344. Bxc3 Bxc3 345. Bxc3 Bxc3 346. Bxc3 Bxc3 347. Bxc3 Bxc3 348. Bxc3 Bxc3 349. Bxc3 Bxc3 350. Bxc3 Bxc3 351. Bxc3 Bxc3 352. Bxc3 Bxc3 353. Bxc3 Bxc3 354. Bxc3 Bxc3 355. Bxc3 Bxc3 356. Bxc3 Bxc3 357. Bxc3 Bxc3 358. Bxc3 Bxc3 359. Bxc3 Bxc3 360. Bxc3 Bxc3 361. Bxc3 Bxc3 362. Bxc3 Bxc3 363. Bxc3 Bxc3 364. Bxc3 Bxc3 365. Bxc3 Bxc3 366. Bxc3 Bxc3 367. Bxc3 Bxc3 368. Bxc3 Bxc3 369. Bxc3 Bxc3 370. Bxc3 Bxc3 371. Bxc3 Bxc3 372. Bxc3 Bxc3 373. Bxc3 Bxc3 374. Bxc3 Bxc3 375. Bxc3 Bxc3 376. Bxc3 Bxc3 377. Bxc3 Bxc3 378. Bxc3 Bxc3 379. Bxc3 Bxc3 380. Bxc3 Bxc3 381. Bxc3 Bxc3 382. Bxc3 Bxc3 383. Bxc3 Bxc3 384. Bxc3 Bxc3 385. Bxc3 Bxc3 386. Bxc3 Bxc3 387. Bxc3 Bxc3 388. Bxc3 Bxc3 389. Bxc3 Bxc3 390. Bxc3 Bxc3 391. Bxc3 Bxc3 392. Bxc3 Bxc3 393. Bxc3 Bxc3 394. Bxc3 Bxc3 395. Bxc3 Bxc3 396. Bxc3 Bxc3 397. Bxc3 Bxc3 398. Bxc3 Bxc3 399. Bxc3 Bxc3 400. Bxc3 Bxc3 401. Bxc3 Bxc3 402. Bxc3 Bxc3 403. Bxc3 Bxc3 404. Bxc3 Bxc3 405. Bxc3 Bxc3 406. Bxc3 Bxc3 407. Bxc3 Bxc3 408. Bxc3 Bxc3 409. Bxc3 Bxc3 410. Bxc3 Bxc3 411. Bxc3 Bxc3 412. Bxc3 Bxc3 413. Bxc3 Bxc3 414. Bxc3 Bxc3 415. Bxc3 Bxc3 416. Bxc3 Bxc3 417. Bxc3 Bxc3 418. Bxc3 Bxc3 419. Bxc3 Bxc3 420. Bxc3 Bxc3 421. Bxc3 Bxc3 422. Bxc3 Bxc3 423. Bxc3 Bxc3 424. Bxc3 Bxc3 425. Bxc3 Bxc3 426. Bxc3 Bxc3 427. Bxc3 Bxc3 428. Bxc3 Bxc3 429. Bxc3 Bxc3 430. Bxc3 Bxc3 431. Bxc3 Bxc3 432. Bxc3 Bxc3 433. Bxc3 Bxc3 434. Bxc3 Bxc3 435. Bxc3 Bxc3 436. Bxc3 Bxc3 437. Bxc3 Bxc3 438. Bxc3 Bxc3 439. Bxc3 Bxc3 440. Bxc3 Bxc3 441. Bxc3 Bxc3 442. Bxc3 Bxc3 443. Bxc3 Bxc3 444. Bxc3 Bxc3 445. Bxc3 Bxc3 446. Bxc3 Bxc3 447. Bxc3 Bxc3 448. Bxc3 Bxc3 449. Bxc3 Bxc3 450. Bxc3 Bxc3 451. Bxc3 Bxc3 452. Bxc3 Bxc3 453. Bxc3 Bxc3 454. Bxc3 Bxc3 455. Bxc3 Bxc3 456. Bxc3 Bxc3 457. Bxc3 Bxc3 458. Bxc3 Bxc3 459. Bxc3 Bxc3 460. Bxc3 Bxc3 461. Bxc3 Bxc3 462. Bxc3 Bxc3 463. Bxc3 Bxc3 464. Bxc3 Bxc3 465. Bxc3 Bxc3 466. Bxc3 Bxc3 467. Bxc3 Bxc3 468. Bxc3 Bxc3 469. Bxc3 Bxc3 470. Bxc3 Bxc3 471. Bxc3 Bxc3 472. Bxc3 Bxc3 473. Bxc3 Bxc3 474. Bxc3 Bxc3 475. Bxc3 Bxc3 476. Bxc3 Bxc3 477. Bxc3 Bxc3 478. Bxc3 Bxc3 479. Bxc3 Bxc3 480. Bxc3 Bxc3 481. Bxc3 Bxc3 482. Bxc3 Bxc3 483. Bxc3 Bxc3 484. Bxc3 Bxc3 485. Bxc3 Bxc3 486. Bxc3 Bxc3 487. Bxc3 Bxc3 488. Bxc3 Bxc3 489. Bxc3 Bxc3 490. Bxc3 Bxc3 491. Bxc3 Bxc3 492. Bxc3 Bxc3 493. Bxc3 Bxc3 494. Bxc3 Bxc3 495. Bxc3 Bxc3 496. Bxc3 Bxc3 497. Bxc

LAST-MINUTE SHOPPING

Stocking

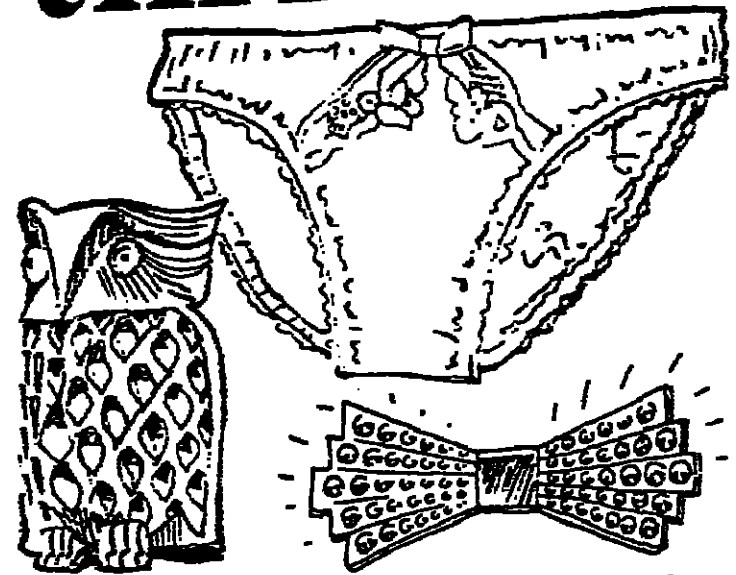


For him: colourful silk bow tie, £15, from The Design Centre Shop. For her: velvet Fergie-style hair bow, £7.50, from Liberty. For them: screwpull corkscrew, £8.95 and foil cutter, £3.95, The General Trading Company



Red and silver chocolate dragees, £2.99, and Christmas tea, 85p 100g, The Tea House; Fortnum & Mason quarter-bottle champagne, £3.15, individual Christmas pudding £1.10

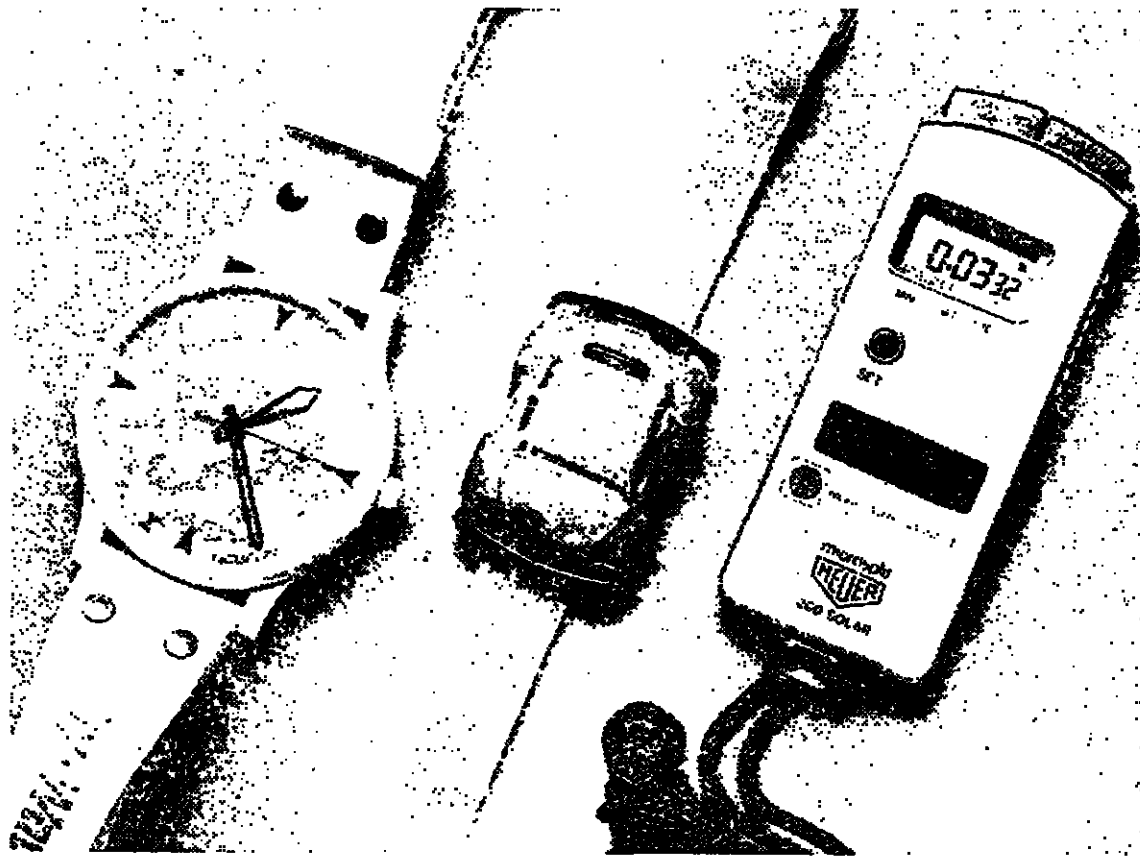
thrillers



For wise men: sandalwood carved owl, £4.85, The General Trading Company. For a little cracker: Orient Express label silk knickers, £15.95, Liberty; Art Deco-style briefs, from £15.90, The General Trading Company

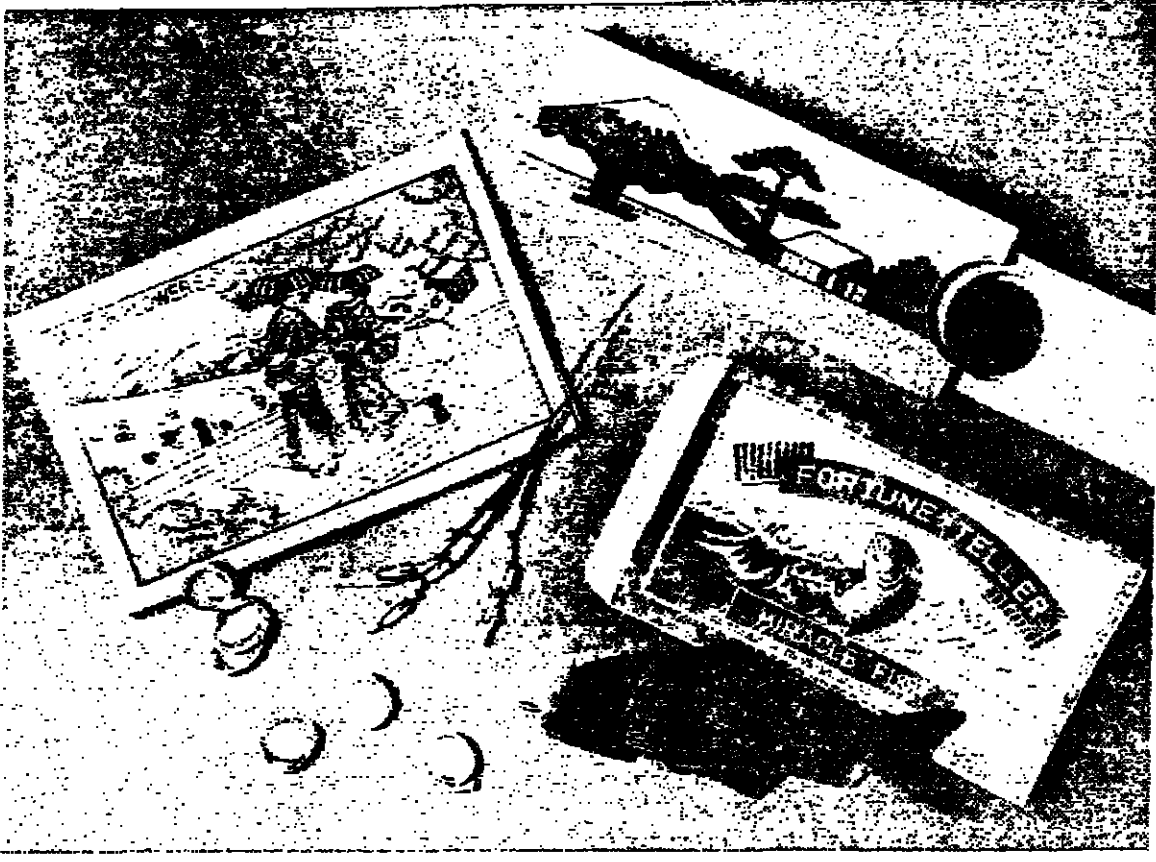
CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Authentic: 42 Shelton Street, WC2; The Design Centre Shop: 28 Haymarket, SW1; Fortnum & Mason: 181 Piccadilly, W1; The General Trading Company: 144 Sloane Street, SW1; Liberty: Regent Street, W1; Neal Street East: 5-7 Neal Street, WC2; Oggetti: 100 Jermyn Street, SW1 and 133 Fulham Road, SW3; Presents: 129 Sloane Street, SW1; The Tea House: 15a Neal Street, WC2; The Watch Gallery: 129 Fulham Road, SW3



Skywatch, £99, Watch Gallery; VW watch, £10.95, Presents; Heuer solar power watch, £27.50, Authentics

Asop to entertain excited children while you snatch an extra hour's sleep on Christmas morning? A tantalizing taste of presents to come? Whatever you feel about seasonal stockings, one thing is for sure: they offer a test of ingenuity when it comes to filling them. No doubt we all follow our own time-honoured traditions in choosing their contents - a tangerine in the toe, perhaps, or bags of golden chocolate coins - and, certainly, sweets, nuts and fruit are easy to buy at the last minute. But, to track down a handful of quirky trifles, jokes and minor whimsies, it's a question of sifting through the shops to spot these pleasing treasures lurking among the tacky junk and vulgar puns which often pass for mini-gifts. To save time and personal energy in the last few shopping days before Christmas, we've come up with a stockingful of bright ideas, for adults and children, guaranteed to elicit a giggle.

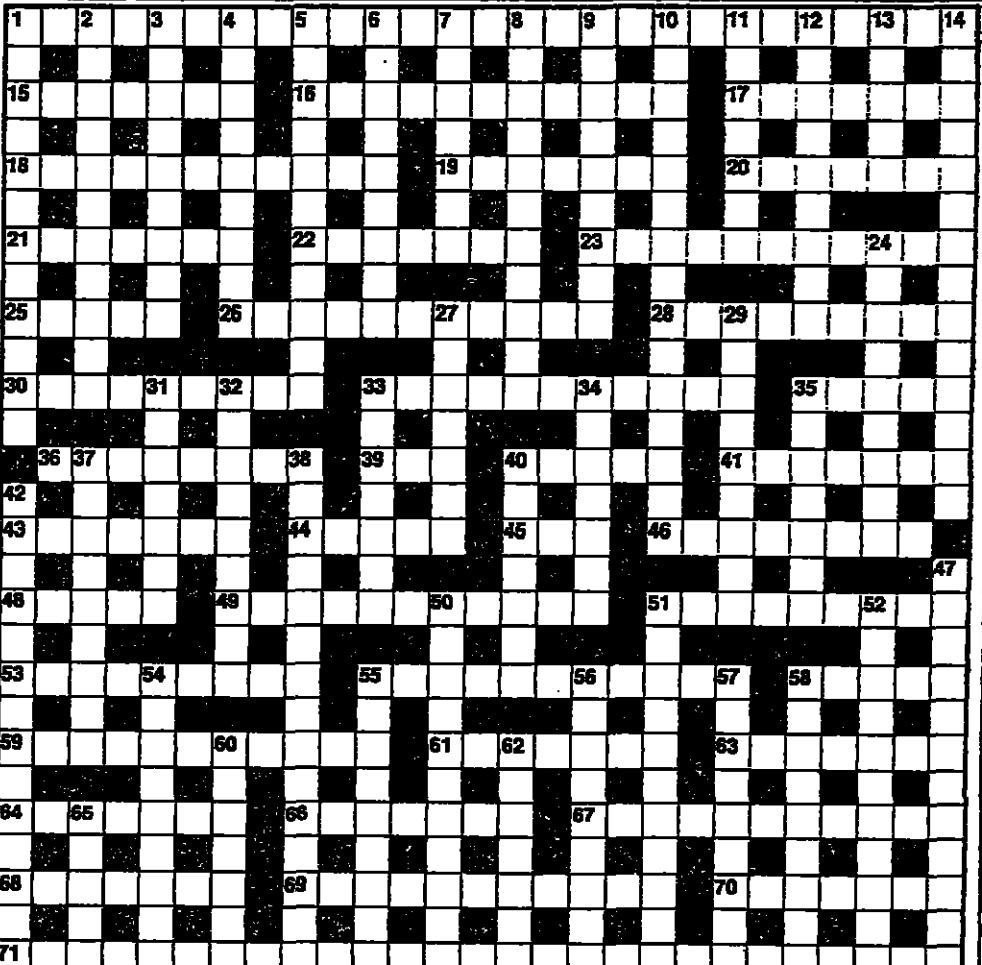


Japanese water flowers, 36p; Vanishing coin trick, £1.85; Fortune telling fish, 2p, all from Neal Street East

Jumbo Crossword

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Tuesday January 6, 1987. Entries should be addressed to The Times Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday January 10.

- ACROSS
1 Reason given for the vanishing of the Baker (alias "Fritter-my-wig") (3,3,5,3,1,6,3,3)
15 Note terrible curse from which one such saves us? (7)
16 Aristotle so footloose a philosopher (11)
17 One politician learning to beg (7)
18 Notes stream meandering nearest to the rising sun (11)
19 See about Italian river resort in Switzerland (7)
20 Not that these cats show mutual attachment (7)
21 Making four in the test is nugatory (7)
22 This spoon means the end for Samuel Whiskers (3-4)
23 Father for instance chasing trains, missing one, it's obvious (11)
25 Macbeth with a new title apparently? (5)
26 Start term in revision of the origin of radio (11)
28 A queen's favourite cheese (9)
30 Once keeping in bed, that's following instructions (9)
33 "An arm, clothed in white samite, mystic, wonderful" one employed on state occasions (5-6)
35 Writer twice interrupted by a song of triumph (5)
36 Member of university of no practical importance (8)
39 In Rome I say nothing (3)
40 It's said some lions were so inquisitive (5)
41 The case is altered for schools (7)
43 How to start a journey when in progress in France (7)
44 In the body of the church one appears ingenious (5)
45 Topless style of Horace's work (3)
46 Toys carelessly when eating cheese - it's the judge's condition (8)
48 A chore, transposing words, to define his dance? (5)
49 The fallacious reasoner holds nothing for, say, Madame Blavatsky (11)
51 Queues said to be short for these matters for debate (9)
53 Male composer, it's said, we have to treat roughly (9)
55 Pooh-Bah's added detail was intended so to confirm Ko-Ko's narrative (11)
58 Winter sportsman's high-ball? (5)
59 Edible fungus which the banjo-player plucked (11)
61 "That - was I turn'd into a hart" (T. Night) (7)
63 Writer of books not like the revised version (7)
64 Roused by the tocsin nearly everyone prepared for battle (7)
66 Leaders of early Christian revival in face of condemnation (7)
67 Disturbed by rake, strange creeper (of the highest order?) (6-5)
68 My "Ichabod" confession comes to a dead end (7)
69 Musical girl forbidden to see Japanese drama (2,2,7)
70 Single solid form 'e put on a pedestal (7)
71 Jack Point's part for instance contains a lot of good sense (4,1,4,4,2,6,2,4)
DOWN
1 Process of brewing involves fine? No matter (12)
2 Revive organization of cruises with funny old Harry (11)
3 Manager at home with needles and thread (9)
4 A minor source gives odds on Curly-lock (9)
5 Set apart for a purpose that's suitable (11)
6 Corneal inflammation from a strike perhaps outside it (9)
7 A large number draw on a Roman flask (7)
8 Pronounced this to be a type of vehicle (11)
9 Stopper used by a surgeon, but awkwardly, the speaker holds (9)
10 House-builder skilled in every department of work (4,2,3,6)
11 One has some difficulty with one's understatement (7)
12 One from this institution would be safe from the Pirates of Penzance (9)
13 Gem's weight much more than a carat (5)
14 Simplicity of the reasoning that impressed Doyle's doctor (14)
24 Beg outside church or jump on the stage (9)
27 This form of element is nothing to a small shark (7)
29 Tending to show anger about tribal development (9)
31 I entered, in English and French, natives of Asia and America (7)
32 Remarkable about bird put up for the job (9)
33 Coin, second kind (7)
34 Distinguished some of them in entertainment (7)
35 Musician from an island in hell (7)
37 Schizophrenic state of a volunteer force in frenzied action (9)
38 Alexander's music 5 to close this social function? (10,5)
40 Condition is for and against one in this way (7)
42 With hammers novices can make a power-control contrivance (5-9)
47 Alienation of unusual characters in a science fiction film (12)
50 Divided into sections to find eligible bachelor to dine perhaps (11)
51 American style suit seen on board ship? (7-4)
52 Able to produce nothing indigenous round the Swiss mountain (11)
54 Growth of Times misrepresented in song (9)
55 Far from dim in bars (9)
56 To this butterfly William's house appears a dump (6-3)
57 Her sunnie embarrassed to be called such a mammal? (9)
58 One that dips into the cellar on board (4-5)
60 Soldier leads learned cleric always to the huntsman's quarry (3,4)
62 Attendant of Dionysus unless one is mistaken (7)
65 One of those quivering by the Lady of Shalott's river (5)

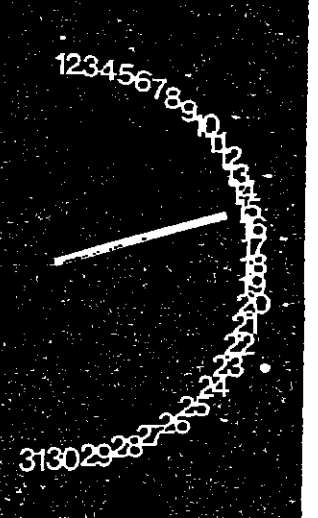


Concise Jumbo Crossword

- There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Saturday December 27
ACROSS
1 Jane Montgomery Campbell farmers' harvest hymn (2,6,3,6,3,7)
15 Entertainment industry (7)
16 Statement clarifier (11)
17 Without apparent sex (7)
18 Top floor (5,6)
19 Render ineffective (7)
20 Open air cinema (5,2)
21 Grow together (7)
22 Non-Jewish girls (7)
23 Happening in spells (11)
25 Worthless matter (5)
26 Express vocal encouragement (5,1,5)
28 Consecrates (9)
30 Giving back (9)
33 Large urban complex (11)
35 Israel/Syria Heights (5)
36 Cider brandy (8)
39 Batsman's score (3)
40 Setback (5)
41 Sets fire to (7)
43 Coming from south (7)
44 Expensive money lending (5)
45 Small ocean (3)
46 Confine (8)
48 Feudal lord (5)
49 Ineffective (11)
51 Complete circle (4,5)
53 Omission (9)
55 Gate guards (11)
58 Gasps (5)
59 State without pleasure (11)
61 Personal belongings (7)
63 Swagger (7)
64 Line walls again (7)
66 Swam over (7)
67 Substantial quantity (5,6)
68 Red, purple, pink hardy annual (7)
69 Abrupt utterance (11)
70 Fixed habits (3,4)
71 Violent movement opposed to Algerian independence. (12,2,1,5,7)
24 Change causing (9)
27 Compulsion (7)
29 Discharge (9)
31 Coin face (7)
32 Gratifying (9)
33 Large tent (7)
34 Ship journey (7)
35 Applicable to group (7)
37 Gravely (9)
38 Impulse (4,2,3,6)
40 Loosen (7)
42 Joshua's trumpet target (5,2,7)
47 Discriminating faculty (5,2,5)
50 Not subterranean (5,6)
51 Not be oneself (4,7)
52 Talk together (11)
54 Fleece (9)
55 Utterly reckless type (9)
56 "Excellent" (9)
57 Dives under water (9)
58 Advocating practical attitude (9)
60 Be superior (7)
62 Windmill rudder sail (7)
65 Crash (5)
SOLUTION TO NO 1131 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Sacrum 4 Cravat 7 Fury 8 Crocodile 9 Port-Au-Prince 15 Archer 16 Abound 17 Piece of eight 23 Hausfrau 24 Rite 25 Recess 26 Prayer
DOWN: 1 Sift 2 Cartouche 3 Mecca 4 Creep 5 Assai 6 Aztec 10 Theme 11 Rabbi 12 Naughtily 13 Ends 14 Palp 18 Irate 19 Caste 20 Ogres 21 Equip 22 Jeer 25 State without pleasure (11)
The winners of prize concise No 1131 are: Mrs J. Wilson, Underhill Road, Cleodan, Tyne and Wear; Peter L. Ogier, Les Hubits, St. Martin, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

In calendars are bang up to date

It had to happen. Designer calendars have hit the home. Once a blueprint for the essential minimalist accessory in hi-tech offices, stark black and white calendars - with perhaps the odd splodge of designer red - are the prevailing style when it comes to date-checking in the kitchen, home office and living room these days. In fashionable black and red, Oggetti's 2 1/2 foot-high wall-hung metal model, £43.25, looks more like a clock than a reminder of the date. The red arm twists round in a half moon to give the date while a magnetic red blob marks the relevant month. Another Oggetti agenda, £24.60, screams out the date with numbers sizeable enough for the most myopic. A barely-readable list in the corner of



Oggetti's 2 1/2 ft high wall-hung Meridiana clock-style metal calendar costs £43.25

Daily Trivia calendar, £2.99 from Paperchase, with a jumbore bag of monthly "not-a-lot-of-people-know-that" information, and the Trivial Pursuit calendar, £2.99 from W. H. Smith. But perhaps some of the most visually appealing calendars in the current crop are the pictorial ones which seem to have more in common with glossy illustrated hardback books. Particularly striking are three from Liberty: a Guatemala Rainbow Calendar, £11.95, showing the traditional brightly-coloured handwoven costumes of Mayan culture; Bruno Zehnder's delightful photographs from the Antarctic in the Penguin Calendar, £7.95; and the Orchild Calendar, £5.95, with its spectacular colour photographs of exotic blooms. Of course, there's the usual plethora of pictorial calendars produced to please dog-lovers, cat-lovers, horse fanciers and weary executives who appreciate a wry Glen Baxter joke to keep up their spirits. There are calendars for Tolkien fans, railway buffs, Hollywood film addicts, admirers of our national heritage - both hardware and landscape - and anyone who prefers their garden indoors rather than out. Royal Portraits both ancient and modern - with paintings, for example, from the National Portrait Gallery or those of the Prince and Princess of Wales - can also be hung. Children and grown-up children are catered for with the Pooh calendar, shaped like a honey-pot, £3.50 from Scribblers; the Teddy Bear calendar, £4.95 from Athens; Adrian Mole's calendar-cum-diary, £3.50 from W. H. Smith; The



Trivial Pursuit calendar, £2.99, with a quiz question each day, from branches of W. H. Smith

Wisden's Cricket Diary The telephone number for Wisden Cricketer's Diary, available from Save the Children, featured on December 6, is 01-703 5400

Name _____ Address _____

Another Prize Jumbo Crossword will appear on January 1.

DRINK

Just before you visit your local wine retailer, Jane MacQuitty offers a guide to reds and whites for Christmas celebrations

The best of the chain gangs on trial

Christmas comes but once a year and with it the opportunity for us all to forget the bank balance and to splash out on a starchy bottle or two of the finest wines the world produces.

Finding these costly and usually classic charmers is generally much easier than tracking down good wines at cheap prices. But this year I wanted to make certain that everyone had the opportunity to buy The Times' best Christmas bottles. So I asked the largest of wine retailers in the country (those with at least 200 licenced branches or more) to put forward a top Christmas white and Christmas red.

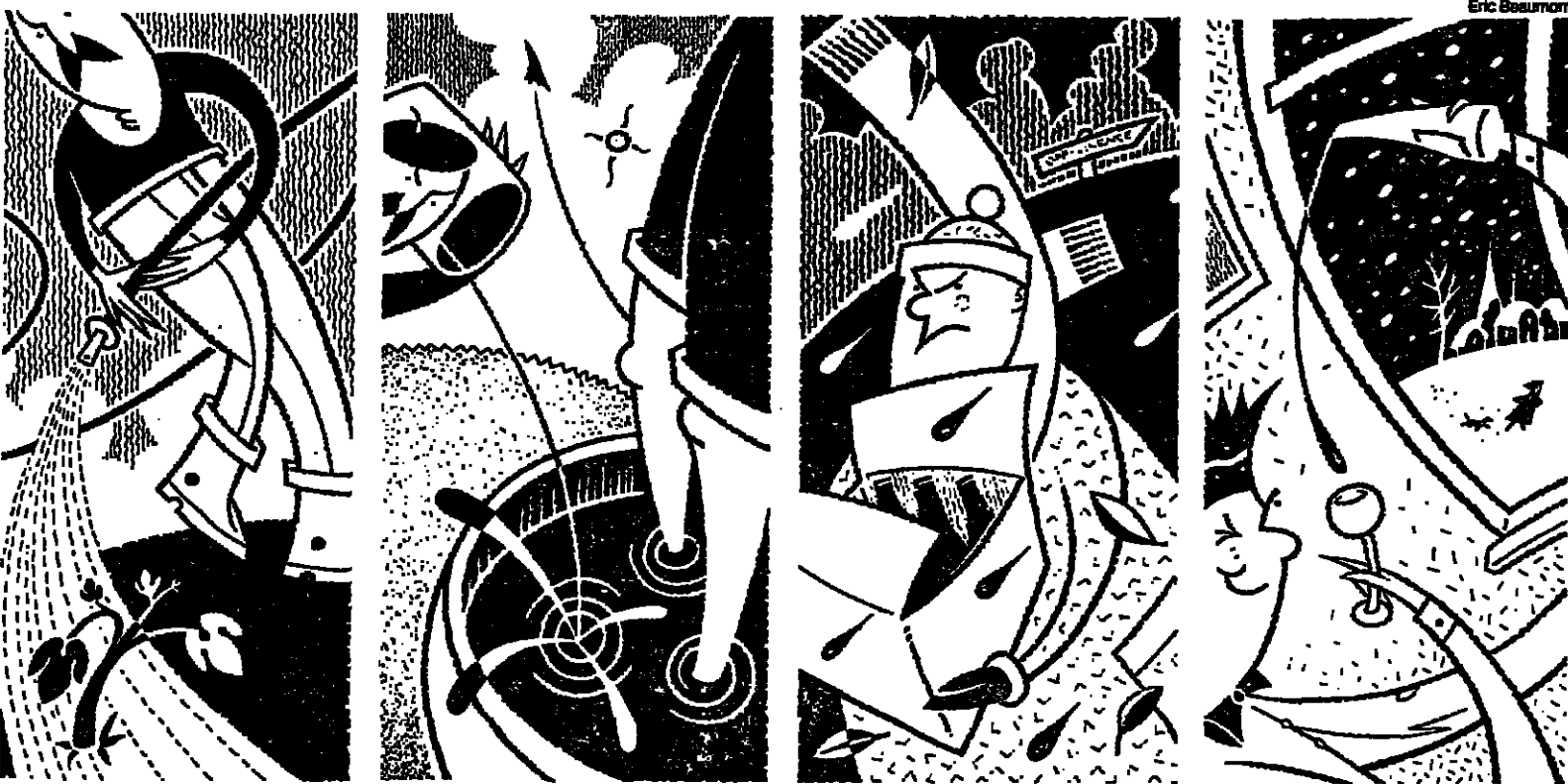
Each retailer was told that the wines had to suit seasonal food (but not necessarily just turkey), be priced under £10 a bottle and that value for money would be taken into account. In addition I stressed that whatever wines the retailers put forward they would have to be widely available; 10 cases of Chateau Christmas sold via one branch would not be a suitable contender.

Sadly despite the strength and importance of their festive sales few wine buyers I spoke to rose to meet this Christmas challenge.

Joining me (JMQ) in this blind Christmas tasting were John Higgins (JH) Arts Editor of The Times, Robin Young (RY) also from The Times and Master of Wine Adam Bracoff (AB) from the Burgundy specialists Domaine Direct.

We all found this Christmas tasting a disappointment. It was especially worrying, too, to note that few buyers were prepared to put forward wines which cost more than £6 a bottle and only two went close to the £10 limit.

Yet surely at Christmas time we all deserve a treat or two? Or is it just that all these pricey and prestigious wines that appear on off-licence lists are only ever available in infuriatingly small quantities? Never mind, all the wines which fall into our 'Top of the Tree' and 'Christmas Crackers' categories will certainly help to ensure that your Christmas celebrations are a success.



Eric Baumgart

1981 Torres Gran Coronas, Penedes. Threshers £4.89. This "sunburnt spicy hefty peppery red" (JMQ) will be at its best only with the chunkiest Christmas foods. AB was kinder noting this "ripe attractive blockbuster will keep the cold out". As was RY: "Good Christmas supper party red" and JH: "Easy drinking".

1981 Marques de Murrieta Estiqueta Blanca, Ygay, Roberts & Cooper £3.99. Again the "warm spicy sunburnt plum jam like nose and taste" (JMQ) of this Spanish red may not be everyone's idea of the perfect festive wine but AB thought it would be "good with game" and JH "excellent nose; I'd be happy with this".

BORDERLINE

Franzia Cabernet Sauvignon. Victoria Wine £2.99. A cheap price, but sadly a taste to match: "Herbaceous grassy nose but a palate that is too sweet, jammy and confectioned for Christmas" noted JMQ. No one else disagreed: "Oversweet, not much backbone or tannin" (AB) and RY: "Sweetened up too much".

1981 Chateau de Pez, Saint Estephe. Peter Dominic £7.25. A disappointment considering the good name of this chateau. JMQ thought it had a "not unpleasant light truffly nose and taste but was too thin for Christmas drinking"; AB similarly noted "Mushroomy nose, rather loose knit". JH was the harshest critic: "Doggy nose... undistinguished".

FESTIVE FAILURES

Beaujolais, Alexandre Silvestre. Presto £2.59. Not a bottle any of us would want to face on Christmas Day: "Acidic, cooked light strawberry/raspberry Beaujolais red" wrote JMQ; "Rather lacking in charm and fruit" (AB); "Anaemic, acidic" (JH).

1981 Chateau Lachaux, cru bourgeois, Haut Medoc. Augustus Barnett £5.49. This "aggressive, rough farmyardy stuff" (JMQ) would bring little joy at Christmas. RY said it was "undistinguished rather woody claret" and JH "musty".

WHITE WINES

TOP OF THE TREE

1985 Sancerre, Domaine des Trois Pressoirs, Pierre et Etienne Riffault. Threshers £5.85. An ultra-stylish Sancerre that won hands down in the whites: "Lovely zesty chalky gooseberry-green Sancerre class... excellent as a Christmas aperitif and with the first course" (JMQ); "Classic Sauvignon... superb, bags of fruit" (AB); "enjoyable aperitif-style Sancerre" (RY). An unexpected Thresher's triumph.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

1985 Venegazzu Pinot Grigio, Conte Lovadan. Augustus Barnett £3.49. Italy's only offering here makes a good inexpensive white Christmas all-rounder. JMQ enjoyed its "zippy flowery herbaceous smell and barley-sugar like taste". RY similarly picked up "a boiled sweets note" finding it "refreshing invigorating and flavourful".

1985 Montana Chardonnay, Oudlins and Gough Bros £3.99

New Zealand's Chardonnays have come of age as this south island white demonstrated: "Classy pineapple-like Chardonnay nose plus a fresh leafy-apple New Zealand palate" (JMQ); "Appealing warm toasty flavour" (RY); "honeyed nose agreeable with the turkey" (JH); "ripe peachy nose, oaky tones... a Chardonnay treat" (AB).

1982 Sainsbury's Blanc de Blancs Brut Vintage Champagne, Linaud Gontier. Sainsbury's £3.95

Sainsbury's new own-label vintage bubbly had an "attractive flowery-pineapple Chardonnay scent but a young sharpish taste" (JMQ) and was "light and green in flavour" (RY). As AB and JH put it this youthful fizz would make either "a good bottle to start Christmas Day" or else would "work well as a pre-Christmas lunch drink".

CHRISTMAS CHEER

1985 Domaine de Cabrières, Chateau-neuf-du-Pape, Louis

Amsud. Peter Dominic £6.52

A useful Christmas runner-up blessed with a "fresh green zesty herbaceous bouquet and taste... again a lively Christmas Day aperitif and first course wine" (JMQ). RY thought its "pleasant lemon-buttery flavour" would come in useful with the Christmas buffet as did AB: "Good weight for Christmas food".

1985 White Burgundy Groupement de Producteurs de Ligny-St-Gengoul-de-Sicasse, Marks & Spencer £4.99

"A good fruity Christmas aperitif but too soft for the spiciest festive fare" queried JMQ as did RY "could work with starter"; AB similarly noted "soft fruit, soft palate". All in all a useful Christmas aperitif wine without the guts or depth to cope either with spicy stuffings or meats.

BORDERLINE

1985 Chateau de la Casemichère, Muscadet de Sèvre et Maine, Domestien Bahaud. Victoria Wine £3.59. Given the cold weather at Christmas time Muscadet is not perhaps the most

appropriate of white wines.

However this "palatable flowery-apple Muscadet" (JMQ) would probably go down well with a fishy first course. RY found it "a bit aggressive for the season of goodwill" and both JH and AB thought it "lacked character".

1985 Sancerre, Vacheron. Tesco £5.49

There was a world of difference between this and our Top of the Tree Sancerre: JMQ noted "green chalky Sancerre nose but dull and sweet with it"; AB: "Well-made but lacks exuberance" RY: "Dull, flat, neutral" and JH "Very light in colour and taste".

FESTIVE FAILURES

1985 Chateau d'Avrillé Chardonnay, Vin de Pays du Maine et Loire, Roberts & Cooper £2.89

"Water-white colour, elegant smoky nose but dull dirty taste" was JMQ's verdict here. Everyone else agreed: "Unpleasant really drab dry wine" (RY); "Very ordinary" (AB); JH spotted it as "very young Loire", adding "difficult

to know when and what to drink this with".

Quite. Macon Blanc Villages, Alexandre Silvestre. Presto £3.99

No one wanted to celebrate Christmas with this "dull, sweaty, earthy Macon taste" (JMQ), that was "pretty ordinary stuff" for RY, "acceptable but short" for JH and "prematurely old or past its best" for AB.

1984 Chablis Premier Cru Vallons, A Bichot. Unwines £9.95

Chablis should be truly ashamed of itself; everyone gave this pricey premier cru their lowest mark: JMQ noted "Wet straw and wet dog"; RY: "Not much pleasure in this"; JH: "Dreadful - wouldn't have it in the house" and AB, who detected its Chablis source, "Earthy animal-like nose".

RED WINES

TOP OF THE TREE

1984 Chateau-neuf-du-Pape, Les Arnevels, J R Quoit. Tesco £5.29

This "very classy" red Chateau-neuf with "delicious

right spicy Syrah fruit and the backbone to cope with the festive fare" would be a perfect and popular choice with all the family. RY thought its "good fruit and rich attractive flavour would cope with Christmas lunch of either duck, goose or turkey". AB enjoyed its "barrelled nose" and "sweet tobacco-like fruit and spice".

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

1974 Chateau-neuf-du-Pape, Domaine Guy Mauret. Unwines £3.19

Another red Chateau-neuf with "delicious ripe spicy-smoky cinnamon fruit and backbone, oak and depth" (JMQ). RY, like AB, enjoyed its "rich gamey fruit and oak" but like JH thought it "possibly a bit austere for some tastes". Its distinctive mature style does not have the universal appeal of Tesco's Chateau-neuf.

1982 Orlando R F Cabernet Sauvignon, G Camp & Sons. Oddbins and Gough Bros £3.99

Everyone at the Christmas table will enjoy the "sweet

seductive cassis fruit and rich New World charm" (JMQ) of the Australian red. Its ripe overt fruit will make a good marriage either with turkey or other festive fare, accompanied by fruit sauces or stuffings.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

1983 Crozes-Hermitage, Cave Coopérative de Vins Fines, Marks & Spencer £3.99

A worthy alternative wine for turkey and all the trimmings this "well made soft juicy blackberry and blackcurrant like wine and finesse and depth too" (JMQ). AB was its biggest fan: "Classic black pepper Syrah nose and blackcurrant fruit".

EATING OUT

Raw deals and saké

London's Japanese restaurants, unlike its French or Indian or Italian ones, are, all of them, dependent on Japanese custom. And their hefty prices are determined by the fact that they are expensive account perks.

Squeezed between a sandwich bar and a minicab outfit, so implausibly theatrical that it might have jumped out of Mona Lisa, I found a window with a crimson kimono and a sign saying Gobeil.

As in all these places, you glean a piece of scalp disease as you enter, through the pendent swatches of ritual rag. By our table was a Calor heater with leaflets advertising the products of Furusato Foods of Camden. Furusato is evidently a useful outfit. With its supplies and a modicum of nous we can all go Japanese.

I suppose the provenance of the grub doesn't matter as long as it's good. Most of Gobeil's "cooking" is all right, though the battered king prawns and veg are of chip-shop greasiness. Sashimi (raw fish) which is the glory of the Japanese



Francis Mosley

kitchen, although it has more to do with filleting and airt presentation than with cooking, here comprises: salmon, octopus, turbot, cuttle-fish, tuna and a couple of species that the bemused waitress didn't know the Japanese name of, let alone the English. The usual green mustard and soy dressing was just that - the usual, but fine and fiery as ever.

We also ate buckwheat noodles in a sweetish broth, a chicken kebab with a precu-

ror of HP sauce and, another palate-fryer this one, bean curd with ginger sauce. A plate of thinly sliced raw beef that I'd like to have eaten raw was shoved on the table along with a piece of equipment from an under-the-arches garage - two gas burners connected to yet another Calor cylinder. A grill was fitted on the top of the burners and we were invited to grease this piece of metal with a quoit of beef fat.

Restaurants are for eating in, kitchens for cooking in. The "breaking down of the barrier" reduces the former to gaming places. The whole point is not to participate in the creation... we all have the address of Furusato Foods. While this boy scout primus-stove stuff was going on, a stream of men had been slipping by. I followed them. Out back, from a room past the lavatories, came the dry rustle of a knot of rattlers. Within, when I peeked, was a mahjong rally - heads down, Chivas Regal everywhere. £50 for two.

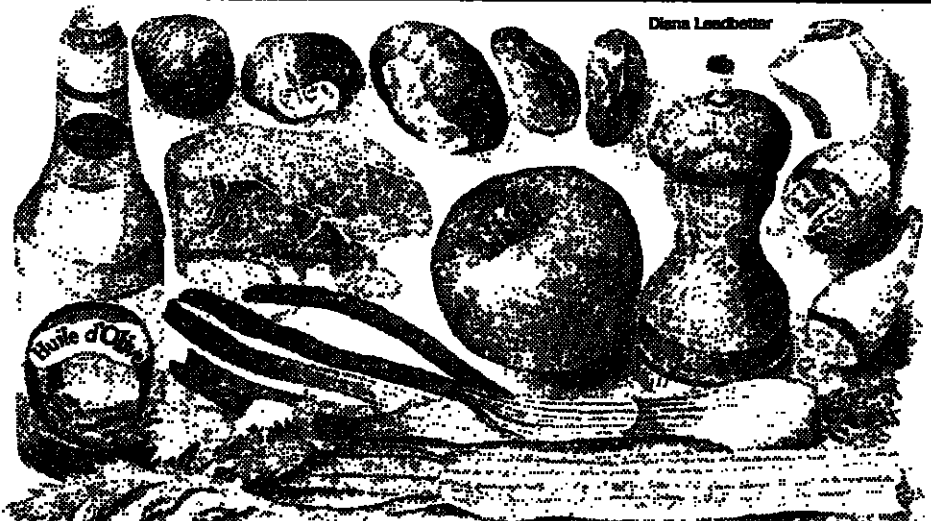
One Two Three is dearer: here we drank only Kirrin Beer. The restaurant has dark wicker screens between the tables, greenery here and there and hemispherical lampshades made from the kind of wire that keeps flies from larders. Six pieces, each the size of a domino, of a raw belly of a tuna cost £12; this must be some sort of record. A dish called "various fish" was comprised of scallops, mackerel and spinach perfumed with rice vinegar that was adjudged to lend it the flavour of old towels, but jolly nice old towels of course.

There's an excellent stew of noodles, gij no moto (monosodium glutamate), seaweed which must have been fresh cut from a groyne that morning, chicken gizzard, mushroom and fishcake. And the (leanish) belly pork simmered in saké is one of the most succulent meat dishes imaginable. £70 plus for two - and you'll note that the bill has a space for you to write your name and company. If you want to eat like this you must join Sanyo.

Jonathan Meades

Gonbei 151 Kings Cross Road, WC1 (01-278 0619), Mon to Sat 6-10.30pm. One Two Three 27 Davies Street, W1 (01-409 0750), Mon to Fri 12-2.30pm and 6.30-11.30pm.

THE TIMES COOK



Diana Leachetter

Stuffed with richness

To stuff or not to stuff? Is stuffing necessary? Do you like it? Why bother? Let's decide first whether it is to add flavour, moisture, bulk, variety or all four. Stuffing is hardly essential, although it comes in handy when a small bird must stretch to feed a multitude. In the case of turkey, the main purpose of stuffing is to add flavour and perhaps variety. It should not be needed as a moisturizer unless the bird is horribly overcooked.

This year's turkey has a richly flavoured stuffing. The second recipe, a variation of a traditional potato stuffing for goose, could not be simpler. It also provides one of the accompanying vegetables which makes one less thing to think about on the day. Roast goose with potato stuffing. Serves six to eight. 1 goose, about 4.5kg (10lb). For the stuffing: 1.8kg (4lb) potatoes, 6 rashers streaky bacon, 30g (1oz) butter, 3 bunches spring onions, finely chopped, 3 sticks celery, finely chopped. Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

Take the giblets from the goose and use them to make stock for gravy, reserving the liver. (Serve the liver lightly sautéed as a warm salad first course.) Save any detachable lumps of goose fat to render down as dripping and cut off the wing tips for the stockpot. Peel, cook and mash the potatoes. Grill the bacon until it is crisp then cool and crumble it. Melt the butter, add the chopped spring onions, and cook them on a low heat for a minute or two.

Talking turkey with Shona Crawford Poole

Mix the potatoes, bacon, spring onions and chopped celery with a generous seasoning of salt and pepper and use this mixture to stuff the goose. Truss it with string or skewers and prick the skin lightly with a fork or skewer on the legs, back and lower breast to help the fat to run out. Do not puncture the skin over the main breast area because the fat underneath it will be needed to baste the meat.

Set the goose on a rack in a roasting tin and roast it in a preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for 15 minutes. Turn the bird over on to its breast, reduce the temperature to moderate (180°C/350°F, gas mark 4) and roast for 1½ hours then turn it on to its back again and roast it for another 1½ hours - making a total of 3¼ hours' cooking time. Pour off the fat in the roasting pan two or three times.

The goose is cooked when the juices run pale gold. Test with a skewer inserted into the leg close to the body. Rest the bird for at least 10 minutes before carving it.

Roast turkey with chestnut stuffing. Serves 12 to 14. 1 fresh turkey, about 5kg (11lb). For the stuffing: 225g (8oz) pork, lean and fat, finely minced, 225g (8oz) minced veal, 1 turkey liver, 110g (4oz) Parma ham, 110g (4oz) shallots, 110g (4oz) stoned prunes, 1 medium dessert apple, 450g (1lb) cooked chestnuts.

- 4 tablespoons olive oil, 225g (8oz) fresh breadcrumbs, 55g (2oz) freshly grated Parmesan cheese, 5 tablespoons dry sherry, ¼ nutmeg, grated, Salt and freshly ground black pepper.

To baste

110g (4oz) butter, melted, 8 tablespoons dry white wine. Put the minced pork and veal in a large bowl. Fry the liver for a moment or two in a tablespoon of oil - just long enough to firm it a little. Chop it finely and add it to the bowl together with the Parma ham, shallots, prunes and apple, all finely chopped. Break up the chestnuts and add them too, then mix all the ingredients lightly together.

Heat the remaining oil and fry the stuffing, in two or three batches, over a medium heat for about 10 minutes. Remove it from the heat and stir in the breadcrumbs, Parmesan, sherry and seasonings. Set aside to cool.

Stuff the turkey with this mixture. Truss it and remember to calculate the cooking time on stuffed weight. Set the turkey on a rack in a shallow roasting tin. Soak a double thickness of butter muslin in the wine. Write it out, soak it in the melted butter and drape it over the breast and thighs of the turkey.

Roast in a preheated moderate oven (160°C/325°F, gas mark 3) for about four hours, basting it several times. The turkey is cooked when the juices run clear. Test with a skewer inserted into the thickest part of the leg close to the body. Remove and discard the cloth and rest the turkey in a warm place for at least 15 minutes before carving it.

Display your crown jewels over dinner. CROFT TRIPLE CROWN PORT. Croft Ports. Appreciated at the finest dinner parties for over three centuries.



How many Santas are cuddly-wifters?

If the national average is anything to go by, probably about 10%.

But research shows that in ancient civilisations buck-listed, south-pawed, in other words left-handed people, may have had the upper hand.

Could it, after all, be wrong to be right and right to be left?

Read The Economist's 112-page Christmas double issue. Out now. £2.



CHRISTMAS TELEVISION AND RADIO

By Peter Waymark



FILMS ON TV

BLACK HARRY: Shirley MacLaine made her first screen appearance in *The Trouble With Harry* in 1956. Relentlessly teased by the director, Alfred Hitchcock, who insisted on talking to her in Cockney rhyming slang, she had a torrid baptism. The film, a joyous black comedy about a dead body that stubbornly refuses to stay buried, was mysteriously withdrawn for many years and has only recently resurfaced. Look out for John Forsythe, blue-rinsed hero of *Dynasty*, as an abstract painter. ITV, Christmas Eve, 10-11.50pm.



TELEVISION

RINKSIDE SEAT: Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, the ice dance wizards, get their skates on again for *Fire and Ice*. It is a fantasy drama about a prince and princess from opposite worlds who meet and fall in love but find that their passion threatens to destroy them. With choreography by Graeme Murphy, artistic director of the Sydney Dance Company, *Fire and Ice* combines ice dance with ballet, boasts more than 30 spectacular costumes and features music by the ubiquitous Carl Davis. ITV, Boxing Day, 7.30-8.30pm.



FILMS ON TV

ENGLISH LESSON: Julie Walters shot to international stardom as the working-class girl who joins the Open University in Willy Russell's *Educating Rita*. Michael Caine is the disillusioned English professor who becomes her tutor. Released three years ago and being shown on British television for the first time, the film was a huge box-office success and a landmark in the career of its veteran director, Lewis Gilbert, whose credits go back to *Reach For the Sky* in the 1950s. BBC1, Christmas Day, 10.40pm-12.30am.



TELEVISION

GREAT DAME: Peggy Ashcroft may be our greatest living actress but she has not hitherto been noted for her willingness to be interviewed on television. Now, in her 80th year, she makes amends. In conversation with the critic Michael Billington, she reflects on a brilliant career which started at Birmingham Rep in 1926. She recalls her several Juliets, getting racist letters while acting with Paul Robeson, and, away from the stage, playing cricket with Len Hutton. *Dame Peggy* is on Channel 4, Christmas Eve, 9-10.45pm.



RADIO

GOON FOREVER: The Goons — Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers and Harry Secombe — sent a shock wave through British comedy in the 1950s and the memory of their irreverent, anarchic style lingers fondly on. This year five editions of *The Goon Show* which were broadcast overseas but have never been heard in this country were discovered in the BBC Archives and are being unwrapped for Christmas. Meet Eccles, Bloodnok, Gryptotype-Thynna and company on Radio 4, starting on Christmas Day, 12.27-12.55pm.



TELEVISION

RIGHT WALLY: George Cole as Wally, an old man who suffers from loss of memory, in *Day to Remember*, a play about a family gathering for Christmas which skilfully walks the tightrope between comedy and pathos. Ron Cook plays the son-in-law left to cope with Wally's affliction, and Rosemary Leach and Barbara Flynn complete a strong quartet. The script, by the prolific Jack Rosenthal, shrewdly catches the interplay of character and the nuances of banal speech. Channel 4, tomorrow, 9.45-10.45pm.

TODAY

● ● ● **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (1968):** Stanley Kubrick's bold and intelligent excursion into science fiction, with brilliant special effects, which largely dispenses with conventional plotting to emphasise the power of images and ideas. A rich meal, both for the eye and the mind. BBC2, 11.50am-2.05pm.

● ● ● **THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES (1946):** William Wyler's powerfully crafted drama of American servicemen making the painful adjustment to civilian life. Six Oscars included one for the hands-off veteran, Harold Russell. Channel 4, 2-5.05pm.

● ● ● **HAROLD LLOYD'S WORLD OF COMEDY (1962):** Lloyd himself made the selection of golden moments from his silent and early sound films. An avalanche of brilliantly executed gags from a unique comic talent. BBC2, 2.05-3.40pm.

● ● ● **PICCADILLY INCIDENT (1946):** Anna Neagle returns from a desert island to find that husband Michael Wilding has re-married. The first of the "London" films, directed by real husband Herbert Wilcox. Launches a Neagle season. BBC2, 3.40-5.20pm.

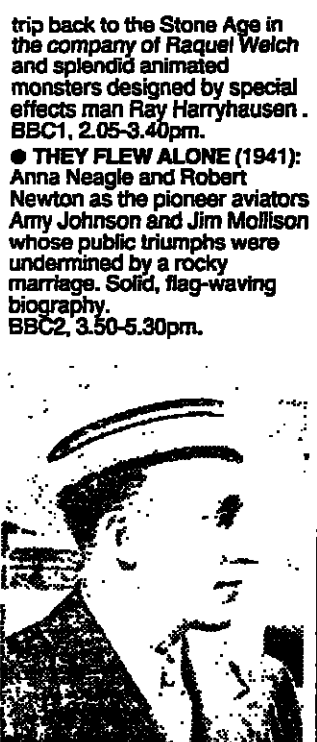
● ● ● **OLIVER! (1968):** Handsome and lively screen version of Lionel Bart's stage musical, based on *Oliver Twist*, with fetching performances from Ron Moody, Harry Secombe and the young Mark Lester. Veteran Carol Reed directed and won himself an Oscar. BBC2, 5.55-8.15pm.

● ● ● **TRADING PLACES (1983):** Exuberant, sharp-edged John Landis, comedy with poor black Eddie Murphy and rich mug Dan Aykroyd swapping roles to settle a bet between two old stockbrokers (Don Ameche and Ralph Bellamy). ITV, 10.15pm-12.25am. *British television premiere.*

● ● ● **THE WAGES OF FEAR (1953):** French classical stalwarts Yves Montand and Charles Vanel in Henri-Georges Clouzot's classic thriller, which wrings every last drop of suspense out of a hazardous journey through Central America with trucks of nitro-glycerine. BBC2, 10.45pm-1.20am.

● ● ● **TARZAN: THE APE MAN (1981):** Bo Derek as a scantily clad Jane in a good-to-look-at but dramatically empty foray into the African (actually Sri Lankan) jungle, directed by husband John. BBC1, 11.15pm-1.05am.

The great TV picture show



STAR SPANGLED RHYTHM (1942)

is an engaging pot-pourri of song, dance and comedy as the big names on the Paramount payroll do their party pieces for the war effort. Bing Crosby (above) croons *Old Glory* and delivers a patriotic oration on the deeds of great Presidents; and there are contributions from Bob Hope, Paulette Goddard, Dorothy Lamour, Alan Ladd and Veronica Lake. Channel 4, 4.30-6.25pm.

1941 (1979): Said to be the most expensive comedy ever made and notable as Steven Spielberg's one commercial flop. Lots of energy but little wit in a story of Californians going hysterical as the Japanese threaten to invade. BBC2, 7-9pm. *British television premiere.*

TUESDAY

● ● ● **THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (1925):** Terrific performance by Lon Chaney as the deformed musician luring the diva to his lair in the Parisian sewers. Stylish and atmospheric, and still the best film version of Gaston Leroux's classic chiller. BBC2, 12.50-2.05pm.

● ● ● **THEY FLEW ALONE (1941):** Anna Neagle and Robert Newton as the pioneer aviators Amy Johnson and Jim Mollison whose public triumphs were undermined by a rocky marriage. Solid, flag-waving biography. BBC2, 3.50-5.30pm.

● ● ● **RAISE THE TITANIC (1980):** It would have been easier to have lowered the sea said one way of this lifeless epic which effectively sunk the film career of Lord Lawford. ITV, 1.30-3.35pm.

● ● ● **THE JUNGLE BOOK (1942):** Colourful but dramatically staid Korda version of the Kipling stories, with Sabu as the boy Mowgli and model animals. BBC1, 2.05-5.05pm.

● ● ● **THE GREAT WALTZ (1938):** Hollywood goes to Old Vienna for a plush, sugary musical biography of the waltz king, Johann Strauss. Perverse, he is played by a French actor, Fernand Gravet, and another Frenchman, Julien Duvivier, directs. Channel 4, 2.30-4.25pm.

● ● ● **YELLOW CANARY (1943):** Efficient wartime spy thriller with unusual casting for Anna Neagle as, perish the thought, a woman suspected of being sympathetic to the Nazis. BBC2, 4-6.35pm.

● ● ● **IT'S A WONDERFUL WORLD (1939):** Madcap comedy with James Stewart as a greenhorn private eye assigned to shadow a millionaire and falling in love with Claudette Colbert. Channel 4, 4.25-6pm.

● ● ● **THAT TOUCH OF MINK (1982):** Cary Grant as a suave bachelor in amorous pursuit of the virgin Doris Day. Formula plot but with Grant at his stylish best it cannot fail. BBC2, 6.25-8pm.

● ● ● **GUYS AND DOLLS (1955):** Heavy, studio-bound version of the Damon Runyon musical,

CHRISTMAS EVE

with Marion Brande as an unlikely Sky Master. The dolls, especially Vivian Blaine, steal the show. Channel 4, 8.30-11.15pm.

● ● ● **FIREFOX (1982):** Clint Eastwood versus the Commies. Probably the worst Eastwood film ever made and since he directed as well as starred he has no excuse. Channel 4, 11am-1.40pm. *British television premiere.*

● ● ● **DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE (1920):** John Barrymore in flamboyant form as Robert Louis Stevenson's split personality, managing most of his transformations with facial contortions rather than trick effects. BBC2, 12.50-1.50pm.

● ● ● **ROB ROY — THE HIGHLAND ROGUE (1983):** Richard Todd as the Scottish adventurer in a tepid British production from the Walt Disney studio. ITV, 1.30-3pm (Scottish). Christmas Day, 12.30-2pm.

● ● ● **THE WIZARD OF OZ (1939):** Judy Garland and chums take to the Yellow Brick Road for an enduring piece of Hollywood magic with marvellous songs and a host of delightful characters — the Witch (Margaret Hamilton), the Scarecrow (Ray Bolger), the Cowardly Lion (Bart Lahr) and the Tin Man (Jack Haley). BBC1, 2.25-4.05pm.

● ● ● **THE STRONG MAN (1926):** The baby-faced silent comedian Harry Langdon in his best screen role as a First World War soldier in pursuit of a girl girlfriend. Shown in a newly restored print, with music by Carl Davis. Channel 4, 3.30-5pm.

CHRISTMAS DAY

● ● ● **CAMMINA CAMMINA (1983):** Ermanno Olmi's highly personal, often idiosyncratic, re-working of the story of the Three Wise Men, vividly shot in rural Italy and performed by a cast of non-professional actors. Channel 4, 11am-1.40pm. *British television premiere.*

● ● ● **HOLIDAY INN (1942):** Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire in a likeable, unassuming Irving Berlin musical which introduced the song *White Christmas*. Channel 4, 7-9pm.

● ● ● **THE TROUBLE WITH HARRY.** See top of page.

● ● ● **THE PURE HELL OF ST TRINIANS (1960):** Third in the series about Ronald Searle's awful schoolgirls and the joke is starting to pall. But there is compensation in George Cole's Flash Harry, a spivish forerunner of Arthur Daley. BBC1, 10-11.30am.

● ● ● **THE SWISS FAMILY ROBINSON (1959):** John Mills leading his shipwrecked family to a new life on a tropical island. Lively, well-made offering from Disney. ITV (except Scottish), 11.40am-2pm.

● ● ● **THE PIRATE (1948):** Director Vincente Minnelli may have created his Caribbean island in the studio but with stars like Judy Garland and Gene Kelly, songs by Cole Porter and lush colour, the stage's hardy matters. BBC2, 12.20-2pm.

● ● ● **HELLZAPOPPIN' (1941):** Manic, surreal farce featuring vaudevillians Ole Olsen and Chic Johnson in a screen version of their famous stage hit. A non-stop volley of verbal and visual gags built around the attempts of two bungling comics to put on a show. Channel 4, 1.25-3pm.

● ● ● **DUMBO (1941):** Delightful Disney cartoon about the little circus elephant who uses his big ears to fly. ITV, 3.10-4.20pm. *British television premiere.*

● ● ● **ANNIE (1981):** Ponderous screen version of the stage musical with an unlikely director in John Huston. Saved

BOXING DAY

● ● ● **CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (1968):** Dick van Dyke as a crazy inventor who gives an old racing car magical powers. Overlong and sometimes uneasy mixture of sentiment and farce, but kids lap it up. BBC1, 10.30am-12.45pm.

● ● ● **ESCAPE TO WITCO MOUNTAIN (1974):** Two orphan children with supernatural powers come under the wing of dastardly millionaire Ray Milland. Disney so-8, ideal for a young audience. ITV, 10.30am-12.15pm.

● ● ● **THE GUNS OF NAVARONE (1961):** Gregory Peck and David Niven lead Allied commandos in a mission to destroy huge German guns on a Greek island. Effective Second World War blockbuster, stronger on action than talk. BBC1, 1.30-4pm.

● ● ● **20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA (1954):** James Mason makes a splendid Captain Nemo in a spirited Disney version of the Jules Verne adventure about Victorian scientists held on a submarine. ITV, 2.10-4.30pm.

● ● ● **THE BAND WAGON (1953):** Vincente Minnelli's vibrant putting-on-a-show musical, joyously performed by Fred Astaire, Jack Buchanan (his best film part as an eccentric Broadway producer) and Cyd Charisse. BBC2, 4-5.50pm.

● ● ● **THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (1977):** Tired addition to the James Bond cycle, with 007 Roger Moore pitted against megamillionaire Curd Jurgens and a seven foot villain, Jaws (Richard Kiel). ITV, 5.15-7.30pm.

● ● ● **SOME LIKE IT HOT (1959):** Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis as musicians in drag on the run from gangsters, Marilyn Monroe in cute support. Billy Wilder's comic hit rags is short on discipline but rich in gags. BBC2, 10.05pm-midnight.

● ● ● **THE VERDICT (1982):** A typically solid and satisfying drama from director Sidney Lumet with strong performances from Paul Newman and James Mason as rival lawyers locked in a case about medical ethics. BBC1, 10.15pm-12.20am. *British television premiere.*

● ● ● **AIRPLANE! IN THE SEQUEL (1982):** Another frenzied lampoon of the disaster genre, but like most movie sequels it fails to match the original. ITV, 11.15pm-12.50am. *British television premiere.*

● ● ● **THE SHOP AROUND THE CORNER (1940):** Bittersweet romantic comedy from director Edmund Lubitsch, set in pre-war Budapest, and drawing great performances from James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan as the pen pals who find that real-life contact is not so easy. BBC1, 12.20-2am.

Competitive edge and a touch of nostalgia

TELEVISION

Christmas television, at the end of the day, is all about ratings, and ratings depend not so much on the goods but how they are scheduled. It is so coincidental that BBC1 has EastEnders starting on Christmas Day at 6.35pm. As Britain's most-watched programme it stands an excellent chance of salvaging ITV's Bond film which kicks off five minutes earlier, and with another edition of *EastEnders* on the same night (10-10.30pm), the Beeb should clean up.

In between the two visits to Albert Square, the admirable Joan Hickson, who has become a television star at 80, is back as Miss Marple in *The Murder at the Vicarage* (8.20-10pm). ITV gamely reponds with another Christie, *Dead Man's Folly* (10.10pm-midnight) only to risk a second battering from *EastEnders*.

Competitive scheduling is not confined to the mass audience. BBC2 and Channel 4 both have Christmas Day documentaries on me-

RADIO

Christmas radio is heavily tinged with nostalgia. The Goons are back (see top of page) and so is Paul Temple and there are golden moments from *The Archers*.

But it is not entirely a trip down memory lane. Radio 3 has a new play by Anthony Minghella, a young writer who has blossomed in 1986 with his first West End production, *Made in Bangkok*, and the television drama, *What If It Rains?* His radio play, *Two Planks and a Rescuer* (Tues, 7.30-9.30pm) goes back to the Middle Ages and the city of York, which is staging the Mystery Plays.

Financial stringency threatens the enterprise but with a royal visit in the offing, civic pride determines that the money shall be found. A cast which any West End manager would dream about includes another man of 1986, David Threlfall of *Paradise Postponed*. Less demanding fare is offered on Radio 4. Peter Sallis plays Agatha Christie's sleuth in

CONCERTS

Tomorrow, Cheltenham Town Hall (0242 521621); Mon, Hot Tub Club, Doncaster, (0302 527448); Tues, Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 358977).

NATIONAL CHILDREN: The National Children's Orchestra plays Panufnik's Heroic Overture, Saint-Saens's *Dance Macabre*, Chabrier's *Espana*, Maw's *Summer Dances*, Roudot's Recorder Concerto. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-222 1061). Today, 7pm.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL: South Bank, London SE1 (01-222 1061). Tomorrow, 7.15pm.

DANCE

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: Peter Schaufuss's new production of *The Nutcracker* opens Fri. Performances continue twice daily until Jan 3, then nightly plus Sat matinees until Jan 17. Festival Hall (01-928 3191).

ROYAL BALLET: Another *Nutcracker*, this one produced by Peter Wright. Two performances today (with Marie Almeida and Antony Dowson featured this afternoon, Cynthia Harve and Jay Jolley tonight); further performances Dec 27 (plus matinee), 29, 31 and Jan 1, 2, 3 (plus matinee), 8, 9 and 9. Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: A different Christmas treat, *Cinderella* in a Viennese setting with a specially written score by

GALLERIES

Johann Strauss. Tonight at the Leisure Centre, Wilmsholw (0625-633789); then Mon & Tues evenings, Wed matinee, Fri matinee and evening, plus further performances until Jan 3, at the Derrigate, Northampton (0604 24811).

SCOTTIE WILSON: Oddball, "primitive" paintings. Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, Cambridge Road, Hastings (0424 435952).

Loans scheme in a poster from 1917. German posters were made by pioneers of graphic design and expression. *The Poster in Germany 1914-1920*, is on show at the Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (01-735 8922).

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: *Lucia di Lammermoor* is the Royal Opera's Christmas offering on Tues and Boxing Day at 7.30pm. Handel's *Sansone* on Mon at 7pm. Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Janáček's early, short opera, *Osud* (Fate), twinned most enterprisingly with a staged performance of the composer's haunting *Diary of One who Disappeared* on Mon at 7.30pm. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London, WC2 (01-636 3161).

OPERA

● ● ● **GARY KEMP OF SPANISH BALLET:** who have proved a remarkably resilient and adaptable unit. After tonight's show at G-Mex, Manchester (061 834 2700), they settle in for a residency at Wembley Arena (01-902 1234), from Monday for five nights (not Christmas Day).

OPERA

● ● ● **PAUL VON HINDENBURG:** looks inappropriately grave as he urges the German public to subscribe to the 7th War

OPERA

Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Galleries: David Lee; Rock: David Sinclair; Bookings: Arne Whitehouse

OPERA

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

GARDNER CONCERTS: Postal booking open for first of series with Royal Opera House orchestra under Bernard Haitink. Feb 12 and 14. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

CONCERTS

DR FEELGOOD: Lee Brilleaux has been on the road most of the year with his gang of R&B perennials and Christmas week is no exception.

CONCERTS

● ● ● **ONE MILLION YEARS BC (1966):** Hammer Films taking time off from horror for a merry

CONCERTS

● ● ● **THE MARK OF ZORRO (1920):** Dated but still punchy silent swashbuckler about the Mexican Robin Hood which set Douglas Fairbanks on his way to energetic stardom. BBC2, noon-1.25pm.

CONCERTS

● ● ● **THE PINK PANTHER STRIKES AGAIN (1976):** Variable addition to a famous series with Peter Sellers as the bumbling Inspector Clouseau and Herbert Lom as the master criminal out to destroy him. ITV, 1.30-3.25pm.

CONCERTS

● ● ● **THE FORTUNE COOKIE (1966):** Billy Wilder in typically cynical mood with the story of a crooked lawyer (splendid Oscar-winning performance from Walter Matthau) trying to win exorbitant damages. BBC2, 5.15-7.20pm.

CLASS

SPORTS DIARY

Frances Edmonds in Australia

Crying shame

Australian cricket captains are not the only sportsmen liable to break down and sob in defeat. John Kollias, the Robert Redford of the America's Cup and skipper of the New York Yacht Club's entry America II, was reduced to tears as New Zealand's "plastic fantastic" KZ7, skippered by 12-metre genius Chris Dickson, eliminated the New Yorkers from the race after their 24 successful defences of the cup in the 132 years preceding Australia II's 1983 victory. It was the sea breeze, the celebrated "Fremantle Doctor" which delivered the death blow to the Americans' \$20 million two-year fight to regain the cup. "We may sue the doctor for malpractice," said the defeated syndicate's spokesman wryly.

After America II's thrashing, two Sydney expatriates turned up at the New York Yacht Club and offered a replacement trophy. The club declined their offer — an empty Foster's beer can with wooden spoon and an Australian flag.

Super grass

The Adelaide Oval's perfect batting pitch is a credit to groundsman Les Burdett who has long criticized batsmen's use of rubber-soled shoes and maintains that the less popular spikes aerate the pitch instead of merely tearing off the top grass, and gives the spinners some rough to bowl on during the fourth and fifth days. Burdett is winning his argument. Spikes are now mandatory in Sheffield Shield matches at the Oval and he has started preaching the message for Test matches too.

Blinder

Former Australian skipper Richie Benaud has invented an odd way to improve the leg-spin of Peter Sleep and the off-spin of Greg Matthews. In an attempt to give the bowlers a mental picture of a perfect line and length, Benaud took the pair off to the nets in Adelaide and obliged them to bowl with their eyes closed. Wags in the England team say they thought that the Australian opening attack had already been doing just that in Perth.

Wakey-wakey

England cricket captain Mike Gatting, who overslept and arrived late at the Melbourne cricket ground for the match against Victoria, will not be allowed to forget his peccadillo. In Adelaide, most of the team ignored the Hilton hotel's megadecibel fire-alarm siren which went off at 6.30 am assuming it was some prankster's wake-up call for their dozy skipper.

Who's who?

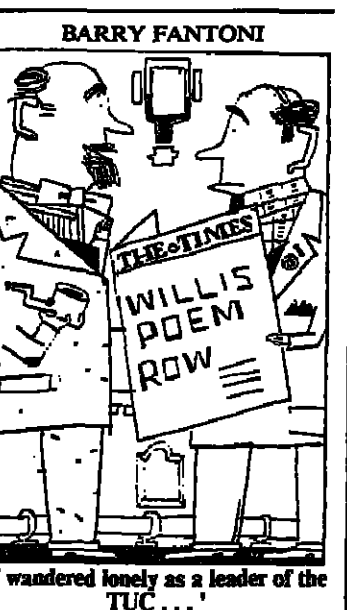
After the blood-letting at Somerset Cricket Club, the captain's recently published biography *It Sort of Clicks: Ian Botham talking to Peter Roebuck* is destined to become a collector's item. Roebuck has started another book, to be published by William Heinemann in the spring. A piece from the Australian poet Henry Lawson's anthology, *The Land Where Sport is Sacred*, has inspired the title, *Heroes and Clods*. Roebuck refuses to say who will be placed in which category.

Big talk

During Mike Gatting's early-morning absence from the Melbourne cricket ground it fell to the oldest member of the team, Phil Edmonds, to give the pre-match pep talk. "No!" interjected someone at one point. "That will not do..." That is a three-syllable word and Gat does not know any three-syllable words. "Oh, yes he does," countered Surrey's wicket-keeper Jack Richards, mindful of his skipper's increasingly generous girth. "Ham-bur-ger?"

Board stiff

After the Adelaide Test PBL Marketing, the company that markets the game for the Australian Cricket Board, may well have to rethink some of its advertising slogans. Television slots featuring a lion and a kangaroo in a dramatic "clashes for the Ashes" tussle are perhaps excessive in their claims for exciting play even by the usual PR standards. So dreary was the last day's play that one woman spectator even brought an iron and ironing board to the Oval to press her laundry.



I wandered lonely as a leader of the TUC...

How free are the Sakharovs?

Peter Reddaway speculates about the conditions that the Russian leaders may have imposed

The imminent return of Andrei Sakharov to Moscow from exile in Gorky does not come as a surprise to close watchers of Soviet affairs. On the other hand, what he and his wife will do to — and be allowed to do — after their return is very unclear, and will depend on many unforeseeable factors.

What is certain is that the Kremlin's move is not part of any discernible general policy of the Gorbachev leadership to ease the extremely harsh measures which have been taken against dissidents and would-be emigrants of all sorts over the past seven years — ever since, in fact, Sakharov was exiled for criticizing the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

A growing number of individuals have, like the Sakharovs, benefited from concessions designed to placate foreign opinion. But emigration is still barred to most applicants. And despite markedly greater openness in the media and cultural life, severe treatment is still being handed out to most dissidents.

The biggest questions are whether the authorities have imposed limits on the Sakharovs' future activity in Moscow, and if so, whether the strong-willed couple intend to observe them.

When campaigning for his wife to be allowed to travel to the United States for medical treatment, which she eventually did this year, Dr Sakharov did, under official pressure, give a very conditional undertaking to limit his public statements. More recently, however, he issued a forthright appeal on behalf of political prisoners, much in the style of his pre-exile days.

The authorities may have decided not to impose any conditions — at least at first — calculating that with the dissident groups in considerable disarray, Sakharov's return to Moscow will not lead to a new surge in their activity. If this were to happen, however, the authorities may have resolved in advance to take whatever steps against Sakharov future circumstances will permit.

Another question-mark hangs over whether the Sakharovs may soon want to move on from Moscow to join their family in Massachusetts. Would the Kremlin in that case agree?

In the past, Sakharov has been convinced that the authorities will never let him emigrate. He believes they do not want the West to know certain non-technical information about the Soviet space programme to which he was privy prior to his exclusion from it in 1968.

Partly for this reason, perhaps, he has never expressed an unequivocal desire to emigrate. He regards Russia as his home, and he feels a duty to act as a spokesman for the persecuted.

By contrast, the Kremlin has sometimes appeared divided on whether it might let him go. Two years ago official spokesmen said

he was free to leave, only to be contradicted by other spokesmen. To date, the Gorbachev regime has taken up the negative position.

The Sakharovs may of course emerge from the ordeal of their exile with changed intentions. The cumulative effect of their hunger-strikes and the barbarity of the doctors who assisted the KGB in tormenting them have damaged their health and aged them. This is clear from Mrs Sakharov's harrowing accounts in her recently published book about their exile, *Alone Together*.

In these circumstances — in their mid-sixties and with their family in the United States — it would not be surprising if any thoughts of emigration grew stronger.

A technical quasi-legal question is also of interest. While Mrs Sakharov has been legally pardoned for her alleged "slandering of the Soviet system", what exactly has happened regarding her husband? When he was exiled without trial, in violation of the law, spokesmen claimed that the basis for this was an unpublished decree of the Supreme Soviet. Has this body now issued another secret decree? If so, what are its terms?

The Sakharovs' return to Moscow fits into a clear pattern of

diplomatic moves by the Gorbachev administration. The physicist Yuri Orlov, the mathematician Anatoly Shecharansky, the computer-programmer Grivnina, and now the Kiev poet Irina Ratushinskaya have been released one by one, and allowed to leave the country. In these and other cases the main goal has been to create a better image abroad.

At the same time, however, an Orthodox Christian named Rusak has been sentenced to 12 years for his writings on the church, and the psychiatrist Koryagin is still, after three years of mental and physical torture, hovering on the verge of death in prison.

Worst of all, the worker and author Anatoly Marchenko has just become the latest in a lengthening line of dissidents to be pushed over this verge, by brutal prison guards and doctors, and into his grave. As Yuri Orlov summarised yesterday, "Marchenko's death may well account for the timing of the Sakharovs' release."

But their release would not have been feasible without the continuing pressure of scientists, governments and humanitarian organizations over seven years. This campaign saved the Sakharovs from Marchenko's fate, and brought them, now, from the horrors of a Kalfasque existence in Gorky to a less abnormal, but highly unpredictable new phase of their lives in the Soviet capital.

The author heads the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, part of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars, Washington.

The many-layered illusions of our cultural decomposition

George Walden challenges the notion that the arts and technology are in conflict

Conservatives freak out a virtue of frankness about our economic condition. But there is room for a little more honesty about the cultural state of the nation too. Economic effortlessness has made us poorer than we need be, to imagine that we can coast into the future on inherited cultural superiority would risk mixing poverty with pretension.

The effects of economic decline are quickly and keenly felt, and the loss can be calculated in raw cash and human suffering. Retraining, enterprise and investment can prepare for a new industrial age.

Cultural decline is less easy to calibrate, or to counteract. We can measure the losses of a steel mill operating under capacity, but not of a child's brain, imagination or intelligence. The gap between our society's technological and cultural aspirations is large and growing. The reflections of this divergence are to be seen in a new political brutalism, a loss of roots and of simple humanity. None of this will be self-correcting, either by a return to prosperity, or by modern technology alone.

The Times recently crossed swords with the Prince of Wales on the venerable theme of the arts versus science in education. The prince feared technological domination; *The Times*, lack of enterprise. There were few reverberations, perhaps because the exchange fitted too easily into the established pattern of debate.

It is a cosy, predictable sort of debate, with a consoling, backwards-and-forwards rocking-chair movement: on the one hand, the need for more science and training; on the other, the vocational value of the arts. On the one side, the technological imperative; on the other, the humanizing humanities. On one side, philistine materialism; on the other, the rounded man.

The debate itself is becoming a convention, the answers as predictable as the questions. That is what happens if you leave out the little matter of quality. Do we really live in a country of cultural excellence, and economic mediocrity? As soon as the question is posed, the rocking-chair motion becomes less even, and more agitated.



Over-production of aesthetes and high-domed dreamers would be an entertaining excess, but alas, it is no part of our problem. We need more emphasis on intellectual achievement in the arts and humanities, not less: both for itself, and for vocational reasons too. Our education is not "academic" enough, and it is not practical enough either. There is no either/or between arts and sciences, no conflict between thinking and doing, least of all in the intellectually demanding new technologies. All too often, "too academic" can be a euphemism for "too much mental effort".

In Britain, any talk of culture has to be approached with crablike circumspection, and the word itself somehow carries disagreeable foreign flavours. Oswald Spengler decided that we didn't have one at all — only a soulless civilization. But whether he or we like it or not, we have one all right, and a rather distinguished one too. It was once defined by T.S. Eliot as including everything from Derby Day and the Cup Final to boiled cabbage cut up into sections. He was not being nationalistic, and still less "prouder than thou" — hardly his manner.

But he certainly wasn't saying that culture, however broad its scope, is exclusive of the fine arts, fine literature, a sense of history and intellectual excellence. Since boiled cabbage and Derby Day — though less perhaps football — seem to be flourishing, it seems reasonable to concentrate on these less material aspects.

As a country, we are not short of pious devotion to the humanities; only of the thing itself. At worst, our attitude to the arts comes close to H.L. Menckens' description of chastity: a reputation for it is a wonderful thing; chastity itself is sometimes useful. Like the rarer brands of Scotch,

our culture seems increasingly reserved for the export market.

English, has been quietly disintegrating too. Significantly, the report appeared in 1975 — the nadir of Britain's economic fortunes — and it is worth rereading today. Its august equivocations mirror more accurately than any historical survey the passive accommodation to decline which was the hallmark of the era. Belief in literature as a civilizing experience for pupils of all abilities is described, with deft condescension, as a "spirited credo", and before long the report itself subsides into educational colloquialism: "total teaching situations" and the like.

Conservatives cherish the past and tradition. Yet our modern brand sometimes has a thin, metallic, utilitarian ring, closely associated with economic realism and new defence technologies — vital, but not sufficient pillars of a civilized society. It is right to re-read Adam Smith's economics; but also Thomas Carlyle's denunciations of materialism and spiritual waste. If Conservatives want change within continuity, and to enrich the present with a knowledge of the past, we would do well to encourage a little more familiarity with it. A country losing touch with its own history is like an old man losing his glasses: a distressing sight, at once vulnerable, unsure, and easily disoriented.

Given the binary simplicities of the times, it is scarcely possible to raise such matters without being suspected of Luddism, or of evading economic necessity. But higher cultural aspirations do not conflict with prosperity; they underpin and transcend it. Without them, the protection of democracy and the elaboration of sane public policy will become increasingly difficult, as governments themselves lose the historical perspective against which domestic and international judgments must be made.

An intellectual culture is not a luxury, but a practical economic and political necessity. The *Collège de France* recently described it as "an instrument of free thought, which, like the martial arts in other fields, can help today's citizen protect himself against abuses of power to which he is subjected by advertising, propaganda and political or religious fanaticism". The dull gift of fanaticism is there in British politics alright. How well are our citizens protected?

The battle raging over the future of Britain's education is one of the most hopeful developments in this country for many years. There is an obscure but growing groundswell of dissatisfaction with things as they are: with the anti-achievement ethos, the institutionalized aspirations to the second rate, the inculcation of ordinariness. It is not just a matter of intellectual achievement — vital and underestimated as that is — but of a healthy reaction against the philosophy of low expectations, whether in football, cooking, English or maths.

People do not relish the prospect of a future in the third league. There is a spark of revolt against the logic of decline, the beginnings of a renewal of the spirit of educational idealism which the Tory Party must capture. A new educational culture, based on quality and effort, in the humanities as well as the sciences, is the only secure basis for the future of our country. If that is not what people want, then we must dim down our hopes for that future. If it is, then there is a lot to be done.

The author is Minister for Higher Education. The article is based on a recent speech to the Tory Reform Group.

Peter Brimelow Santa's zappy Christmas

New York
A cheery 20 ft-high Father Christmas has suddenly appeared by the side of the Connecticut road, whizz along every Friday night on our weekend retreat from Manhattan. My wife drives too fast for me to be sure of the details. However, it seems to be an inflatable advertisement for a newly-opened outdoor Christmas-tree emporium.

To British sensibilities, this may sound rather gross. But the fact is that the American rural landscape is so much larger and emptier than that of Britain, even in a relatively highly-populated state like Connecticut, that it simply swallows such details. In any case, I was delighted to see such a stupendous Santa. It confirmed my impression that Christmas has returned to America.

There are of course distinct national differences in the celebration of Christmas. In Northern Europe, public display is for much more than the Scots, for obscure Caledonian reasons, prefer New Year — or New Year's, as they say here. But when I first came to America from England as a student in the early 1970s I found the natives' enthusiasm for the festival quite astonishing.

Unlike the British, the Americans decorate the outside of their houses at Christmas. In those days they did it in a spectacular way. Driving through working-class areas you would see front gardens adorned with elaborate tableaux such as whole teams of life-size plastic reindeers pulling Santas and attendant gnomes on sledges, all lighting up at night. Full-grown trees would be festooned with coloured lights. Seasonal greetings would flash on and off. It was a community celebration, and competition, in a way that I remembered in Britain only at the last Coronation.

The energy crisis later cast a pall, literally, over all of this. It wasn't just the increased cost of power; energy conservation became almost a moral issue. But with the collapse of Opec the coloured bulbs are being lit again all over America. Fashion-conscious yuppies, however, prefer white lights and discreet conifer wreaths on the door.

So this evening, as I write these lines, I can see through my apartment window the Empire State Building illuminated in its Christmas colours of red and green. Right next-door to me, similar lighting has enabled the public-spirited Metropolitan Life Insurance company to transform the tapering top of its headquarters tower, a copy of the Campanile in Venice, into a Christmas tree 700 feet above the snarling Manhattan traffic.

There are other subtle differences between British and

American Christmas customs, not all of them as charming. Americans, for example, seem never to have heard of Boxing Day. They quote regularly work on December 26. Even this year with Christmas Day on a Thursday the New York Stock Exchange is determined to open the next day and disrupt Wall Street's chance of a long weekend.

Americans also don't seem to have heard of Twelfth Night. The holly wreaths and decorations put up with such enthusiasm in December are often still mouldering sadly in March. On the other hand, what we think of as Christmas-card weather still has much of the country in its icy grasp in March. American winters are serious affairs and the victims have difficulty staying in a romantic mood.

It's always amusing to watch the peculiar look that comes over the faces of British visitors when the continuous carol-playing that goes on here at Christmas seems to be interrupted by a lugubrious rendition of *The Red Flag*. The American people have not belatedly validated Karl Marx's prediction and become the vanguard of World Revolution: what they are singing is the German carol *O Tannenbaum*, the source of the melody — sometimes sung in an English translation as *Oh Christmas Tree*. (With different lyrics, it's also the state anthem of Maryland.)

A similar anomaly is the growing practice of trimming holly wreaths with tartan ribbon, despite the Scots' previously-noted general abstention. Indeed, in regions heavily influenced by Scottish immigration, such as the Washington-area town of Alexandria or parts of North Carolina, Christmas has somehow come to be regarded as so typically Scottish that bagpipers are frequently employed in public places to regale the crowds. Actually, of course, the Christmas traditions of both America and Britain are mostly of German origin — transmitted, respectively, through the influence of the Prince Consort and massive immigration. But this is rarely noted.

A regular feature in America's Christmas is the continuous campaign by liberal groups to eliminate any religious symbols from public buildings. The American Constitution prohibits the "establishment" of any religion. But most Americans don't know what an established church is, and zealots have seized the opportunity to attack even non-denominational symbols with relentless fervour. Illogically, Christmas trees are not challenged, though hardly erected for ecological reasons. Emotions run high at this profoundly emotional season.

Merry Christmas — or, as they say here, "Happy Holiday".

Philip Howard Wit half as old as Time

Quotation is the sport of the sedentary classes. It is too late to run a mile in under four minutes, though I impressed myself, and alarmed the conductor, with a long sprint off the crown of the last bend to catch a No 27 bus the other day. I no longer seriously expect a telephone call from Australia inviting me to join the England touring party in order to add some bliff to the middle-order batting, though in my opinion they are wet not to think of it.

But we can all quote; and we do. Oscar, we do. Next to being witty ourselves, the best thing is to quote another's wit. It is the English vice; an irritating form of showing off; and between friends and on the right occasion a way of sharing pleasure. Classical quotation is no longer the parole of literary men all over the world. You need to be jolly careful about letting a particle of Greek or Latin slip out these days, for fear of seeming elitist and an intellectual snob.

Richard Porson, the great Cambridge classical scholar, was as famous for his outstanding memory as for his prodigious capacity for booze. There are stories to confirm the observation that Porson would drink ink rather than not drink at all. One day he was travelling in a stagecoach when an Oxford undergraduate let slip a quotation in Greek, in order to impress the ladies present, and said it was from Sophocles. Porson was not impressed. He pulled a pocket edition of Sophocles from the recesses of his coat, and challenged the young man to find the passage. With the presence of mind and sang-froid for which Oxford is famous, the undergraduate said that he had made a mistake, and that the quotation was in fact from Euripides. Porson immediately produced a text of Euripides and repeated the challenge. In a desperate attempt to save face in front of the giggling girls, the young man declared that the quote must have come from Aeschylus. When the inevitable text of Aeschylus popped out of the folds of Porson's coat, the undergraduate shouted: "Coachman, let me out! There's a fellow here has the whole Bodleian Library in his pocket." The anecdote illustrates well the different qualities of the two universities: pedantry versus style.

People do not relish the prospect of a future in the third league. There is a spark of revolt against the logic of decline, the beginnings of a renewal of the spirit of educational idealism which the Tory Party must capture. A new educational culture, based on quality and effort, in the humanities as well as the sciences, is the only secure basis for the future of our country. If that is not what people want, then we must dim down our hopes for that future. If it is, then there is a lot to be done.

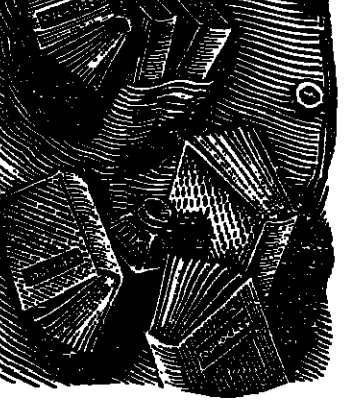
To make it into *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* is to have a monument that will last longer than bronze. I am interested in the one-quotations men: those whose literary memory rests on a single quotation. The classic example is Dean Burgon, who as an undergraduate wrote in his entry for the *Newdigate Prize*:

Match me such marvel save in Eastern clime,
A rose-red city half as old as Time.

He was actually quoting from Samuel Rogers:

By many a temple half as old as Time.

Plagiarism apart, his single line has lived, unlike anything else that Burgon wrote. He became Dean of Chichester; the rest of his life as a



writer must have been anticlimax, like that of an infant prodigy who is finished at the age of 14.

Cornelius Whurr wrote the amiable couplet:
What lasting joys the man attend
Who has a polished female friend.

Nothing beside remains of his writing. The Oxford reference books spell him Whurr, the University Library knows him as Cornelius Whurr. His is still a good solo quote.

Dr M.J. Routh said: "You will find it a very good practice always to verify your references, Sir"; and remembering. This does not seem to be much to show after 63 years college. It only quotes to show. Hush little bright line. Don't you cry. You'll be a cliché. By and by.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

CRACKS IN THE EMPIRE

The past 48 hours have seen developments of great, and ostensibly conflicting, significance in the Soviet Union. The dissident scientist, Andrei Sakharov, and his wife have been released at last from internal exile. The capital of the Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, Alma-Ata, has been the scene of nationalist riots by Kazakh students, which have been reported by the Soviet media. And the official newspaper, Pravda, has blamed Leonid Brezhnev by name for the maladies afflicting Soviet society today.

Whether or not such connections exist, this week's developments call for a response from the West. Because of their importance, the West should look beyond the appearance to the substance before deciding what that response should be.

The release of Dr Sakharov and his wife, while to be welcomed without reservation, must be seen as a further attempt by the Gorbachov leadership to present a more civilized face to the West. The

castigation of Dr Sakharov, who had through his scientific career brought honour to his country, was an indictment of the whole Soviet system. The illegality of his exile exemplified its arbitrariness; his enforced separation from his wife its inhumanity.

The real import of Dr Sakharov's release waits on time. If he is allowed to resume his contacts with his former colleagues; if he and his wife are both, in time, permitted to travel abroad together - even, if that is their desire, to emigrate - then there will have been a real change of heart in the Kremlin.

However, if conditions - of silence or isolation, perhaps - have been placed on their return to Moscow, their exile in Gorky will have been replaced with an exile which is the more bitter for being more public. And if their experience is not replicated in the treatment of other, less prominent dissidents, whose release would not elicit so favourable a response from the West, then the Kremlin's change of heart will be spurious.

While the temptation for the West will be to respond to the release of Dr Sakharov with unalloyed rejoicing and talk of victory, its immediate response to the unrest in Kazakhstan is likely to be Schadenfreude. So, it will be said, the Soviet system finds nationalism just as tricky a force to deal with as the West. So the Russian big-brother has not after all been able to convince even second and third generations of Soviet-educated Kazakhs of Russian beneficence and Soviet nationhood.

There is truth in this assessment, but not all the truth. The young Kazakh rioters were said to be dissatisfied by the replacement of their long-serving communist leader, Dinmukhamed Kunayev, by a native Russian from outside the republic. In their protests, they issued an open challenge

to the decision of the Soviet Communist Party leadership in Moscow, and so to the policies of Mr Gorbachov.

Nationalistic challenges have been staged before in the Soviet Union - in the Baltic states and in the Caucasus - but these had nothing of the menace of disturbances in Central Asia. Here, the combination of a rapidly increasing population, national sentiment and the emotional appeal of Islam which binds its adherents to Mecca rather than to Moscow, is potentially more explosive than any other source of tension in the Soviet Union.

Already, Slavs have lost their overall majority in the Soviet population. Yet the people of Central Asia see the power in their republics passing to Russians even more widely than before - partly as a result of Mr Gorbachov's determination to combat corruption. They see their influence at the centre of power in Moscow similarly diminished. Earlier this year a project to divert north-flowing Siberian rivers southward to irrigate Central Asia was shelved. With the removal of Mr Kunayev, their sole representative on the central Politburo, they have lost their voice at the centre of power.

This first intimation of serious discontent in Central Asia presents Mr Gorbachov with a problem which equals the stagnating economy in its seriousness. It is a problem that cannot be solved by exhortation or by personnel changes. It demands the sort of radical change in attitude that may be foreshadowed in the release of Dr Sakharov.

Whether such change is incipient or not, however, Schadenfreude is an inappropriate response from the West. Friends and foes of the Soviet Union alike have now to ask themselves whether they can contemplate civil unrest in the Soviet Union with equanimity. And if they cannot, what their response should be.

CITY SCANDALS OF 1986

As soon as one prominent City dealer resigned over allegations of insider trading, it was widely realized in the City that a locked door had been opened and that much dirty linen would tumble out. The deal between the American Securities & Exchange Commission and the disgraced New York arbitrageur, Mr Ivan Boesky, has proved a great catalyst. And the appointment of inspectors by the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate its own officers is a further sign that the Government is determined to pursue this process with reformist zeal.

What is now happening is not a result of the changes in the City, encapsulated in the Big Bang. It is part of the process of reforming the old system which had sunk into more tawdry ways than most outsiders imagined.

The Financial Services Act was passed to police the financial world with a new two-tier system of supervised self-regulation, scheduled to come fully into force next autumn. It was in part needed to protect the public from abuses of relatively new and unregulated forms of investment. It was also rethought in the light of the City revolution in order to substitute tough and systematic rules to cope with conflicts of interest previously

prevented by restrictive practices or club conventions. The City realises the old practices would be fatal to its competition with other financial centres. And The Government understands that the decay permitted to spread under the old ways could discredit the new era of mass individual share ownership.

The basic trouble has been that the old informal club-like system of trust, under the aegis of the Stock Exchange and the Bank of England, has broken down under the same pressures as morality in everyday life. In particular, merchant banks and stockbrokers have sailed closer and closer to the wind in the interests of their clients in takeover bids.

The psychological Achilles heel of the new system is that it is called self-regulation. In practice, however, the new regulatory system is close to the statutory American system. The Securities & Exchange Commission, under the weight of its own bureaucracy, was long ago obliged to operate principally through self-regulating organizations such as the various stock exchanges. In Britain, the Securities & Investments Board, whose members are approved by the Department of Trade & Industry and the Bank of England, plays a similar role to the SEC, though it is a private organization

with authority devolved to it by the DTL. It is illegal to do investment business without a licence which the SIB may take away.

The supervisors monitor the various self-regulating organizations and stipulate much of their rulebooks. Moreover, as recent events have shown, there is now a much stronger purely statutory element operated by the DTL. Only in isolated areas, most notably the City Takeover Panel, does regulation now look weak.

What does need to be looked at again is the source of the corruption that is now emerging. The principal agent, on both sides of the Atlantic, has been the transformation of the individual takeover bid into a large-scale takeover industry, fuelled as much by the operations of the likes of Mr Boesky and the desire of merchant banks and securities houses to drum up business, as by the traditional ambitions of financiers and managers.

To cleanse the financial world, it may be necessary to change the framework of takeover rules and the relations between companies and their shareholders in which this industry flourishes. That - rather than the improved regulatory system that is now exposing some of its excesses - should be the target of financial reformers.

FOURTH LEADER

think you were going to Asia Minor for ten years". Or, "With humble duty, Sir, Miss Boleyn wouldn't want to be a 'No show', would she?" (Or even, "Oh, do cut it short, M. Abelard, please.") And what about Fifikins and Popsy Bear and all the other inhabitants of our St. Valentine's Day small-ads: can you see them being content with a wave and a smile?

Now we know why Leander swam. And anyway, there is a fallacy at the heart of this heartless Savonarola. "Say your goodbyes", he says, "at the entrance to the terminal." And what would that achieve, apart from ensuring that there would be nobody at the check-in until the last minute, when the entire passenger-list would arrive simultaneously? And that is to say nothing of the traffic-jams outside the terminal buildings, where the clammers would be doing a roaring trade; who ever heard

of a romantic packing-warden? No doubt we shall soon begin to see notices at Heathrow displaying the time permitted for an embrace, and the officials with stop-watches and menacing expressions lurking at the counter; we are not sure that we wouldn't prefer the Thought Police to the Kiss Police. Besides, to make the thing fair, those going on short flights should have a briefer embrace-time than those going far, has that been taken into account? There should be an extra allowance, too, for newly-weds, and a rigidly-enforced ten seconds maximum for gentlemen seeing off - ahem - other gentlemen's wives.

"Touch her soft mouth, and march", says Pistol, setting out for Agincourt. "I cannot kiss", says Nym, "that is the humour of it". We wondered what became of Nym, and now we know; he got a job at Heathrow, and worked his way up.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reagan and the Republican cause

From Dr Bruce Collins Sir, Mr Patrick J. Buchanan, White House director of communications (feature, December 10), makes out a wholly erroneous case against the disloyal Republican party establishment. He tells us that President Reagan "has done more for the Republican Party than any American since Theodore Roosevelt". T.R., of course, ruined his party's chance of keeping the presidency in 1912 when he challenged the incumbent William H. Taft, first for the party's nomination and then for the presidency, thus letting the Democrats in.

Second, Buchanan asserts that Reagan brought the Republicans "back from Watergate to become the party of vision and opportunity" when it seemed to be written off. In fact, shrewd commentators in the mid-1970s predicted a major realignment, with gains for a pragmatic, yuppie (if you like) Republicanism following the passing or aging of the New Deal generation, its ethnic ties and its economic preoccupations. The "Watergate" mid-term election of 1974 merely postponed that process.

Gerald Ford won 48 per cent of the popular vote in 1976, not much dwarfed by Reagan's 51 per cent four years later. More general Republican success in 1980 resulted very little from a "coat-tails" effect, but rather from long-term planning, good finances, opportune promises, a degree of unity, and the Democrats' disarray.

Third, Buchanan deplors the Republican establishment's lack of "family loyalty" to their leader. Yet ten years ago one of the most damaging blows struck against the incumbent President Ford came from Reagan's quest for the nomination, which was carried almost to the convention floor. Presumably this is not something lost on the Republicans' Senate leader, Robert Dole, who went down to defeat as Ford's vice-presidential running mate.

Clearly God does have a sense of humour - if for no other reason than he so often sets up man, catches him on the hop and deflates his pretensions - undoing evil with nothing more exciting than an apple, letting Samuel rush ahead in his name and choose the wrong man to succeed Saul, and fooling Elijah through wind, earthquake and fire while hiding all along in the still small voice.

As for today, I am sure God still has occasion to laugh, smiling especially at the many claims to be the one and only way of worshipping him. Yours faithfully, JONATHAN ROMAIN, Maidenhead Synagogue, 9 Boyn Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, December 11.

From Mr R. T. Oerton Sir, People are, of course, fully entitled to believe that an a priori principle that sexual conduct should be confined to heterosexual conduct within marriage may be derived from scriptural or other sources. But it is as dishonest to claim that Aids validates that principle as it would have been to claim that the invention of the contraceptive pill invalidated it. Absolute moral principles, by definition, do not stand or fall according to the practical consequences of their breach.

The idea that Aids should be fought by preaching a moral principle of this kind is equally untenable: people would not be at risk at all unless they had already rejected it. My own view, for what it is worth, is that there is a link

between Aids and immorality, but of a much simpler kind. There is only one absolute moral principle: that which forbids the doing of harm to others. On this view sexual behaviour is immoral only to the extent that it causes harm, and this must depend on many variable factors. Aids is now one such factor, and its existence may render certain sexual behaviour immoral which otherwise would not be so. Yours faithfully, R. T. OERTON, 84 Burleigh Road, NWS.

Unfair to British sportswomen?

From Mrs Sylvia Disley Sir, In his article on the decline of Oxbridge sporting excellence David Miller (Spectrum, December 9) gives as one of the reasons the proportional rise in women students which, he says, "cut the available pool of sportsmen", thus assuming that sportswomen do not count.

Maybe in these establishments they do not, but they should be mindful of the fact that since the war British women have taken their share of Olympic medals, world records and so on in such sports as track and field athletics, swimming and cycling, while in tennis British women have reached the final of the singles tournament at Wimbledon on six occasions and three have won it, during which time not one British man has succeeded in even reaching the final.

Last year the Cambridge women's ski team beat its Oxford counterparts at Val d'Isere, while the Cambridge men lost to Oxford. Consequently the defeated Cambridge men were allowed to join the prestigious Hawks Club, membership of which is not known to be disadvantageous to gaining employment in later life, while the victorious women skiers were not. This is because the Hawks Club is for men only.

Perhaps when Oxbridge can offer the same advantages to their sportswomen as to their sportsmen they may enjoy a renaissance of their former sporting glories. Yours faithfully, SYLVIA DISLEY, Hampton House, Upper Sunbury Road, Hampton, Middlesex, December 13.

Keeping treasures

From Mr Lawrence Keen Sir, Dr John Wood and Miss Clare Conybeare (December 6) quite rightly drew attention to the urgent need for revising the law of treasure trove. One may take some measure of consolation in the fact that the owner of the Middleham Jewel (your report, December 12) may share in the proceeds of its sale, unlike many metal-detector discoveries when no agreements have been made between treasure-hunters and owners.

But this exceptional find highlights again the necessity of a complete review of the legislation concerning all portable antiquities. It is quite wrong that the fate of the Middleham Jewel, undoubtedly of national importance, should now be determined by the good will of the private buyer, or that it is likely to go abroad, by the capacity of one of the national museums to raise a very substantial sum. Yours faithfully, LAURENCE KEEN (Chairman, Dorset Local History Group), 7 Church Street, Dorchester, Dorset, December 12.

Past laughter

From Rabbi Jonathan Romain Sir, "I cannot believe in a God who does not laugh", declared Philip Howard (December 10) and claims that the Bible lacks wit.

Yet Sarah blames her giggles on God (Genesis, xxi, 6), while the Israelites credit their laughter to him too (Psalms, cxviii, 2). Clearly God does have a sense of humour - if for no other reason than he so often sets up man, catches him on the hop and deflates his pretensions - undoing evil with nothing more exciting than an apple, letting Samuel rush ahead in his name and choose the wrong man to succeed Saul, and fooling Elijah through wind, earthquake and fire while hiding all along in the still small voice.

As for today, I am sure God still has occasion to laugh, smiling especially at the many claims to be the one and only way of worshipping him. Yours faithfully, JONATHAN ROMAIN, Maidenhead Synagogue, 9 Boyn Hill Avenue, Maidenhead, Berkshire, December 11.

Student cricket

From the President of the British Polytechnics Sports Association Sir, I read with interest the article in The Times today (December 12) re the Benson and Hedges Oxbridge team. It seems a pity that the universities' sporting organisations and the Test and County Cricket Board have missed this opportunity of selecting from all students of the required standard.

Over 160,000 students in polytechnics and 30,000 in colleges have been denied the "privilege" of playing in the competition for no better reason than that they opted for higher education in the other sectors.

The universities, by virtue of tradition, have a voice on the national governing bodies, which they have unfortunately declined to raise in support of their colleagues in this case. Maybe we will have to wait until the Combined Universities team is again at such a low ebb before the opportunity to participate arises again. Yours faithfully, JOHN GREEN, President, British Polytechnics Sports Association, Birmingham Polytechnic, Perry Barr, Birmingham, December 12.

Home and dry

From Mr P. B. Wood Sir, Now that we have a new President of the RIBA, may we ask him to remind all architects that it rains occasionally in this country? To be able to get from one's car into one's house in the dry is almost as rare as the fabulous roc's egg. And where one can, it is usually the result of alterations effected by the owner.

Yours sincerely, P. B. WOOD, Almond Cottage, 7 Over Lane, Almondsbury, Bristol, Avon, December 9.

A prince's role

From Mr Royce Rytton Sir, I read with great interest John Grigg's article (December 11) on the Duke of Windsor and the Abdication.

I agree with him; it was not a constitutional crisis, since throughout the Duke, as King, acted in accordance with the Government's wishes and refused to fight them. But I believe Mr Grigg to be quite wrong on one point. There is nothing in law to stop Prince Edward, Princess Anne, Princess Margaret, Princess Michael or any other royal highness who is not a peer from standing for Parliament and being elected.

What prevented the Duke of Windsor from standing for Parliament was not that he was royal but the fact that he was a duke. The King made him a duke to prevent political activity and said so. Yours sincerely, ROYCE RYTON, 64 Kingfisher Drive, Richmond, Surrey, December 12.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 20 1955

Most of the the essays which graced the Court Page in the 1950s and 1960s were the work of amateur writers. In content and style they are at least equalled that of professionals.

BANKING IN ARCADY

From a Correspondent I never feel so much a stranger as I do in the Essex town where I was born and which was my home for nearly 20 years. Though the tie is still strong, revisited it seems no longer the place to which I belong. Not that it looks much different from how it looked when I was a boy three 60 years ago. There is the same wide High Street with the market stalls in the middle, and I know exactly where the lanes and alleys turn out of it. Even some of the names over the shops are the same. I have an intense feeling of recognition, but the Epping with which I was once so familiar does not recognize me.

Because, of course, it is not there. It is buried under the layers of the years. What I recognize is only the ghost town, the Epping which, in those late-Victorian times, was like a village in Arcady, isolated in a green ring of forest and farmlands, motor-cars unknown, bicycles at the penny-farthing stage, aeroplanes and radio undreamed of. That is the real to me than the busy modern town that has replaced it.

And most vividly real at that corner of the High Street where the bank used to be. For it was there that, by the lucky chance of being sent fresh from school to be junior clerk, I gained my experience of banking in Arcady. It was before the time of the great amalgamations. Most of the country banks were still run by private companies. Ours was the Chelmsford bank of Sparrow Tuffell and Co., and being merely an "Agency", not yet promoted to "Branch" status, there were only the three of us - manager, chief clerk, and me - to cope with the business. We kept idyllic hours, opening at 10 and closing at 3 except on market day (Friday) when we went on till 5. For most of the week a dreamy peace reigned in the town. In summer, the office was filled with the perfume of sweet briar from the hedges that grew below the window. Rooks made drowsy music from the tall trees across the green.

As a mere Agency, all we had to do was to receive the credits and cash the cheques of the customers, enter the details in a Day Book (toy job), and post a statement of the day's business, together with the cheques handled to the Chelmsford head office where the customers' accounts were kept and their pass-books made up. When our stocks of gold and silver needed replenishing the manager donned his tall hat and frock coat, took a large, heavily secured black bag, and went to London to bring back more from our agents. He would have been an easy prey to robbers on the way home, but nobody every molested him.

BROAD BROGUES

The office resounded with the broad brogue of rural Essex, mingled with many Scottish accents, for the Essex soil is much like that of the lowlands and attracts the Scottish farmers.

It made Saturday a busy morning with us when the results of this weekly boom in trade flowed into our credit accounts. Then I would handle the cheques of so many different colours and designs that the banks of those days printed, a source of never-ending delight to me. They were banks whose titles have long been forgotten, titles often romantic because of the rhythmic string of names, all printed in beautiful penmanship style with decorative loops and flourishes - Prescott Dinsdale Cave Tagwell and Co.; Herries Farquhar Chapman and Co.; Sir John Wm. Lubbock, Bart.; Forster and Co.; Barclay Bevan Tritton Ramsdon Bouverie and Co. - they read like lines from some mysterious poetry. The most elaborate was "Cochs Biddulph Cochs Biddulph and Cochs." It might have come out of Dickens...

Lick and promise

From Sir Francis Avery Jones Sir, Animals lick their wounds and they heal remarkably quickly; they sometimes do the same for a fellow animal. Kind Primrose, the cow, clearly thought her owner's balding pate needed a helping lick and her wish was fulfilled with his hair growing again (report, December 15).

Medical scientists have recently discovered that saliva contains a powerful skin healing chemical which is known as urogastrone/epidermal healing factor (URO/EHF). It has been chemically identified and synthesized, but its full medical capabilities have yet to be discovered. Primrose may have provided doctors with an invaluable clue. It is a most interesting substance; its presence was suspected over 50 years ago when a possible cure for duodenal ulcer was being investigated. It now seems that this indeed may be another use for it. It almost certainly explains how quickly dental wounds heal, a fact much appreciated by dentists and their patients.

Primrose has had her just reward, saved from the fate of her fellow Jerseys (not Frisians, surely!). Living on at the farm as a family pet. Doubtless she will achieve a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the cow who licked her way to fame! Yours faithfully, P. M. W. BUTLER, Cherry Tree Cottage, Chase Road, Upper Colwall, Malvern, Worcestershire, December 16.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 19: The Prince Edward, Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award 30th Anniversary Tribute, visited Northern Ireland today. His Royal Highness, attended by Wing Commander Adam Wise, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE December 19: The Prince of Wales, Vice-Patron, The British Council, this morning visited the Council Offices at 10, Spring Gardens, SW1 and 11, Portland Place, W1.

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, the University of Wales, gave a luncheon at Kensington Palace for representatives from the University and from industry.

December 19: The Duke of Gloucester, President, East Midlands Tourist Board, today received Mr John Dillon-Guy, Director, and Mr Rodney Calow, General Services Manager.

Birthdays TODAY: Miss Jenny Angatter, 34; Mr J. M. Beaumont, 59; Mr Paul Brickhill, 70; Sir George Coldstream, QC, 79; Mr Charles Denton, 49; Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP, 60; Viscount Sandon, 64; Miss Rachel Trickett, 63; Sir David White, 80; Mr John Whitmore, 56.

TOMORROW: Sir Robert Armitage, 80; Sir Arthur Benson, 79; Air Commandant Dame Jean Bromet, 74; Lord Caccia, 81; Mrs Chris Ever-Lloyd, 52; Vice-Admiral Sir Raymond Hawkins, 77; Lord Justice Lawton, 75; Mr David McFall, 67; Mr W.M.M. Milligan, 79; the Most Rev John A. Murphy, 81; Sir John Nabarro, 71; Mr Anthony Powell, 81; Flight Lieutenant W. Reid, VC, 65; Mr Walter Spangher, 43; Mr Grenville Starkey, 47; Mr Peter Timmiswood, 50; Mr James Tye, 65; Dr Kurt Waldheim, 68.

Appointments Latest appointments include Miss D.M. Otter, Headmistress of the Royal Naval School, Haslemere, to be Headmistress of Bedford High School, in succession to Mrs M.E.A. Kaye. The following to be lay members of the Investigation Committee of the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau: Ms Jean Horsham (chairman), Mr Michael Barnes, Sir Kenneth Sharp, Mr Paul Okon, Mr John Mellor, Mr Anthony Heywood, and Mr R. William Jones.

Royal visit to Portugal The Prince and Princess of Wales will visit Portugal from Wednesday, February 11, to Saturday, February 14, at the invitation of the President of Portugal. They will be visiting Lisbon and Oporto.

Judge retires Judge Forrester-Paton, QC, retired yesterday at the age of 65 after presiding over the Northern Circuit for 23 years.

Sale room Renaissance fake fetches £32,200 By Gerakline Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A magnificent Renaissance fake was sold by Christie's on Thursday afternoon for £35,200 (estimate £30,000 to £40,000) to Armitage, the London dealer. It is an enamel and rock-crystal centrepiece mounted in gold and silver-gilt, emulating the great Mannerist creations of the sixteenth century.

The morning sale of applied arts from 1880 to the present day at Sotheby's in London yesterday totalled £374,302 with 4 per cent left unsold. The top price was £29,700 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000) for a Lalique glass table of the 1930s. It has a circular top with eight glass panels moulded with putti and garlands, a cylindrical column support and flared base, both with panels of frosted glass.

True faith of the Virgin Birth What does the Church of England believe about the Virgin Birth of Jesus? At the last General Synod, the "consensus fidelium" was established through two important votes in the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. After recent episcopal doubts and denials, the clergy and the laity resolved that belief in the virginal conception of Jesus is the faith of the Church of England. These were not reports but "votes", and as such were quite unique. Here, at last, was the specific response to a series of reports and debates, whose history has spanned 60 years.

However, Matthew clearly isn't starting with a text. He has a series of traditions about the birth and childhood of Jesus. Into these he weaves scriptural references. He is not adapting the narratives to fit scripture. If anything he is adapting scripture to fit the narratives. The quotation in Matthew 2:23 ("he shall be called a Nazarene") is a very drastic adaptation - it has no known reference; Matthew is not taking Old Testament texts and then writing myths to fit.

Old Testament scripture, which then "took off". The midrashist had a text in front of him which he elaborated often in a most fanciful way. But the text was the starting point. However, Matthew clearly isn't starting with a text. He has a series of traditions about the birth and childhood of Jesus. Into these he weaves scriptural references. He is not adapting the narratives to fit scripture. If anything he is adapting scripture to fit the narratives. The quotation in Matthew 2:23 ("he shall be called a Nazarene") is a very drastic adaptation - it has no known reference; Matthew is not taking Old Testament texts and then writing myths to fit.

David Holloway Vicar of Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne

University news Oxford Professor Zaveli A. Cohn, professor and senior physician, Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology, Rockefeller University, New York, has been elected to the Newton-Abraham visiting professorship in medical, biological and chemical sciences for the year 1987-88.

Queen's Belfast Professors emeriti: Mr W Kirk (geography), Dr C Ehrlich (economics and social history) and Dr J C Murdoch (crop and animal production). Professorial fellow: Dr F Brown, head of virology at Wellcome Biotechnology.

Grants Science and Engineering Research Council: £181,179 to Dr J McCartney for a research grant on computer aided design and pattern recognition. £113,800 (with Leeds University) to

Christening The infant son of Mr and Mrs David Profumo was christened Thomas David by the Rev Christopher Hamel-Cook and the Rev Peter Watkins at St Marylebone Parish Church, on Friday, December 19. The godparents are Mr Simon Booker, Mr Angus Graham-Campbell, Mrs Graham Swift, the Hon Mrs Anselm Rothschild, and Mrs James Sassoon.

Dinner Stationery Office The Hon Peter Brooke, Minister of State for the Treasury, gave a private dinner last night at Brooks' to mark the retirement of Mr William Sharp, Controller and Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, at the end of his bicentenary year. Others present were: Mrs Sharp, Sir William Heston, Sir Robert Armstrong, Sir Peter Middlebrook, Gordon Howard, Mr Kenneth Bradshaw, Professor B A Tarshis, Mr Kenneth Aldred, Mr John Maclean, Mr John Dole, Mr Keith Grant, Mr Murray MacLean and Mr Michael Negropole.

Service dinner The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Officers of C (City of London) Company of the 5th (V) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, held a dinner at HM Tower of London last night. Major H. Raiton welcomed the guests who included the Master and the Clerk of the Cordwainers' Company, Colonel M.J. Dudding, Lieutenant Colonel W.G. Pettifor and Lieutenant-Colonel A.J.M. Rice.

Latest wills Mr Alec Hobson, of Aylsham, Norfolk, secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and Wales, 1946-61, left estate valued at £278,650 net. Mr Harry Macleod Burghes, of Kingston Langley, Wiltshire, surveyor, left £3,642,419 net.

True faith of the Virgin Birth

What does the Church of England believe about the Virgin Birth of Jesus? At the last General Synod, the "consensus fidelium" was established through two important votes in the House of Clergy and the House of Laity. After recent episcopal doubts and denials, the clergy and the laity resolved that belief in the virginal conception of Jesus is the faith of the Church of England. These were not reports but "votes", and as such were quite unique. Here, at last, was the specific response to a series of reports and debates, whose history has spanned 60 years.

However, Matthew clearly isn't starting with a text. He has a series of traditions about the birth and childhood of Jesus. Into these he weaves scriptural references. He is not adapting the narratives to fit scripture. If anything he is adapting scripture to fit the narratives. The quotation in Matthew 2:23 ("he shall be called a Nazarene") is a very drastic adaptation - it has no known reference; Matthew is not taking Old Testament texts and then writing myths to fit.

Old Testament scripture, which then "took off". The midrashist had a text in front of him which he elaborated often in a most fanciful way. But the text was the starting point. However, Matthew clearly isn't starting with a text. He has a series of traditions about the birth and childhood of Jesus. Into these he weaves scriptural references. He is not adapting the narratives to fit scripture. If anything he is adapting scripture to fit the narratives. The quotation in Matthew 2:23 ("he shall be called a Nazarene") is a very drastic adaptation - it has no known reference; Matthew is not taking Old Testament texts and then writing myths to fit.

David Holloway Vicar of Jesmond Newcastle upon Tyne

University news Oxford Professor Zaveli A. Cohn, professor and senior physician, Laboratory of Cellular Physiology and Immunology, Rockefeller University, New York, has been elected to the Newton-Abraham visiting professorship in medical, biological and chemical sciences for the year 1987-88.

Queen's Belfast Professors emeriti: Mr W Kirk (geography), Dr C Ehrlich (economics and social history) and Dr J C Murdoch (crop and animal production). Professorial fellow: Dr F Brown, head of virology at Wellcome Biotechnology.

Grants Science and Engineering Research Council: £181,179 to Dr J McCartney for a research grant on computer aided design and pattern recognition. £113,800 (with Leeds University) to

Christening The infant son of Mr and Mrs David Profumo was christened Thomas David by the Rev Christopher Hamel-Cook and the Rev Peter Watkins at St Marylebone Parish Church, on Friday, December 19. The godparents are Mr Simon Booker, Mr Angus Graham-Campbell, Mrs Graham Swift, the Hon Mrs Anselm Rothschild, and Mrs James Sassoon.

Dinner Stationery Office The Hon Peter Brooke, Minister of State for the Treasury, gave a private dinner last night at Brooks' to mark the retirement of Mr William Sharp, Controller and Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, at the end of his bicentenary year. Others present were: Mrs Sharp, Sir William Heston, Sir Robert Armstrong, Sir Peter Middlebrook, Gordon Howard, Mr Kenneth Bradshaw, Professor B A Tarshis, Mr Kenneth Aldred, Mr John Maclean, Mr John Dole, Mr Keith Grant, Mr Murray MacLean and Mr Michael Negropole.

Service dinner The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Officers of C (City of London) Company of the 5th (V) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, held a dinner at HM Tower of London last night. Major H. Raiton welcomed the guests who included the Master and the Clerk of the Cordwainers' Company, Colonel M.J. Dudding, Lieutenant Colonel W.G. Pettifor and Lieutenant-Colonel A.J.M. Rice.

Latest wills Mr Alec Hobson, of Aylsham, Norfolk, secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and Wales, 1946-61, left estate valued at £278,650 net. Mr Harry Macleod Burghes, of Kingston Langley, Wiltshire, surveyor, left £3,642,419 net.

OBITUARY PROFESSOR J. M. DODD

World leader in his branch of research Professor J. M. Dodd, FRSE, Professor of Zoology at the University College of North Wales from 1968 to 1981, died on December 15, at the age of 71. Dodd was the prototype of a whole generation of comparative endocrinologists, who gave the subject stature. James Munro Dodd was born on May 26, 1915, and educated at the White House School, Brampton, Cumberland, and Liverpool University, where he graduated with first class honours in zoology in 1937.

Interest in marine biology, but finding no posts available he became a teacher at Cardigan Grammar School in 1938. A research post in marine biology was offered to him as soon as he took the job, but he felt honour-bound to refuse it. By this time war was looming and he joined the RAF, first as an aircrewman. But on the death of his mother he felt free to become flying crew. He was rejected as a pilot because of a slight defect of vision. This did not deter him and he became a navigator. Drafted to Transport Command he flew to many parts of the world from Greenland to Australia, ferrying freight and passengers, often on secret and important missions.

On return to civilian life in 1946 he was appointed assistant in zoology at Aberdeen University, and in the following year he was appointed lecturer and later reader in zoology at St Andrews, where he was director of the Gatty Marine Laboratory, a post much to his liking, where he developed his knowledge and skill in marine biology. He stayed there until 1960 when, with some reluctance to

leave a happy situation, he moved to Leeds as Professor of Zoology. There he set up and directed the Robin Hood's Bay Laboratory, near Whitby, a centre for the investigation of the ecology of rocky shores. In 1966 he moved to the Lloyd Roberts chair of Zoology at Bangor. Dodd made outstanding contributions to comparative endocrinology and was one of an elite group which, in the 1950s, established it as a recognized discipline within zoology, making the United Kingdom the leading country for research in the subject. His work concentrated on cartilaginous fishes, sharks, skates, rays and dogfishes. Whilst sharks have gained recent notoriety in other directions, they are not suitable for laboratory work. It was Dodd's contribution to find methods of keeping smaller dogfishes in the laboratory for considerable periods, and his work is confined to one species (*Scyliorhinus canicula*). Friendship with Dodd was a great privilege. His wisdom and humour made his company always a delight. He had a great love of nature and the arts, in particular music. It was not easy to penetrate his reserve. His strength of character carried him through early difficulties, such as curbing by his own efforts a very bad stammer. He combined knowledge with manual dexterity. His kindly understanding, together with an ability to explain complex matters simply, made him a good teacher. Dodd's main collaborator was his wife, Dr Margaret Dodd, herself a distinguished zoologist. He is survived by her and their three sons.

PROFESSOR GLYN DANIEL Professor Colin Renfrew writes: Your obituary of Glyn Daniel (December 15), while paying tribute to his work as a popularizer of archaeology, failed to give an adequate account of his scholarly contributions to the subject, and appeared also to belittle the originality of his archaeological research. Glyn Daniel was an innovator in at least two ways. He was the first systematic historian of archaeology, at any rate in the English language. His pioneering *The Three Ages* laid the foundations for the first coherent account of the history of the subject, *A Hundred Years of Archaeology* (1950). Supported by the documentary evidence set out in *The Origins and Growth of Archaeology* (1967) and given admirably lucid expression in concise form in *The Idea of Prehistory* (1962), this body of work gave several generations of students and scholars their first appreciation that archaeology and prehistory are about ideas, not simply about things, and that ideas are produced by people who are themselves the products of their time. His work in this direction has, moreover, gained a new lease of life with the applica-

tion of Critical Theory to archaeology in recent years, where the historical context of the research under scrutiny is seen as particularly relevant. Glyn Daniel was a man brimming over with interests and observations and ideas. His *Antiquity* editorials alone offered more stimulus than the total work of many scholars. Yet in saying this I have not yet touched on his own great and enduring interest, summarized in *The Megalith Builders of Western Europe* (1958), many of whose ideas were already introduced in his seminal article "The Dual Nature of the Megalithic Colonization of Prehistoric Europe", published in 1941. He felt the mystery of these great monuments already on his first visit to Brittany in 1934, and it continued to "exercise an irresistible fascination" upon him, and through him upon generations of younger archaeologists, for the rest of his life. As his pupil, and as his successor in the Disney Chair of Archaeology, I know that I speak for several generations of students in recalling the boundless intellectual stimulus, humour and sheer good fun of a supervisor or even an encounter with Glyn.

MR TOM SCOTT Tom Scott, who died on December 17, aged 80, was a familiar figure in post-war golf as editor of the weekly magazine *Golf Illustrated* for 31 years. When he handed over the editorship in 1977 he continued to write an occasional column, and within a few days of his death had completed a feature for the magazine on the history of the game. Thomas Ure Paterson Scott was born a Fifer. His early training was with D. C. Thomson's in Dundee, and after the war, which he ended as a squadron leader, he began his editorship of *Golf Illustrated*.

Never slow to engage in an argument, he was nevertheless an easy companion and, with a rich Scottish accent and a presence to match, he shone in the field of public relations. He was president of the Association of Golf Writers from 1981 to 1984, and collaborated with Geoffrey Cousins in a number of books, including *A Centenary of Opens and Golf for the Not So Young*. He moved in retirement to Carnoustie, where he is survived by his second wife, Ella (Bunny).

SIR RICHARD CAVE Mr Peter Bowring, chairman of the Aldeburgh Foundation, writes: Many of Sir Richard Cave's friends, while appreciating the thoroughness with which his outstanding business career was covered (December 6), will be sorry that no mention was made of his enthusiastic support for the arts in general and, in particular, for the Aldeburgh Foundation. There is no doubt that Dick Cave's joining the council of the foundation, at a time when its fortunes were at a low ebb, proved to be a blessing. By his encouragement and by direct help in applying sound business principles, the foundation was quickly set on its feet again. But it was not only in his capacity as a businessman of exceptional qualities that he helped. As chairman of the Aldeburgh appeal, his energy and gentle, but very positive, powers of persuasion have ensured that its target is now in sight. As a generous and regular supporter of the Aldeburgh Festival and other events at Snape Maltings he will be sadly missed. At Festival time it seemed that his house was always bursting with guests.

SIR ROGER JACKLING K. A. G. M. writes: Many of us fortunate enough to have known Roger Jackling (obituary, November 25) after his retirement from the Diplomatic Service will remember especially his work as a panel chairman for the Civil Service Selection Board, which led to his doing similar work for the police. In these new tasks he inspired the same trust, respect and deep affection that had helped to make him so successful in diplomacy. To allow himself to undertake them he declined offers of employment in industry and finance.

MISS ELLA BAKER Ella Baker, who died in New York on December 13, on her 83rd birthday, played a notable role in the American Civil Rights movement. In the 1950s she was important behind the scenes as a field organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People. In 1957 she was asked by Dr Martin Luther King to set up the national office of the Southern Leadership Conference. Later, she organized the conference that created the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.



The Prince of Wales getting a taste of pop music yesterday when he visited a British Council exhibition, "Pop! British Music in the Eighties", which will soon be making an overseas tour.

Dr J. R. Gostrom for research on a small gas engine driven modulator heat pump. Durham Appointments as professors Professor David McNamara, primary education, from January 1, 1987. Dr William Feast, chemistry, from September 1, 1986. Dr Robert Thompson, geology, from April 1, 1987. Anthony John Fletcher, modern history, from April 1, 1987. David Edward Cooper, philosophy, from November 1, 1986. Other appointments Centre for the Study of Studies in Philosophy, Professor D.E. Cooper, Honorary visiting professor in applied physics, from October 1, 1986. Visiting professor in zoology: Professor Kenneth David McDiarmid, from January to April 1987. Visiting professor in social studies: Professor Alberto Masanolo, from April to August 1987. Senior and Junior Research Fellowships in Education, from April 1, 1987. Honorary Professor of Education: Keith Tanner, from August 1, 1986. Honorary professor in psychology: John Malcolm Flindley, from July 1, 1986.

RHS medals The council of the Royal Horticultural Society has awarded the Victoria medal of honour in horticulture to: Mrs C Beeson, Council of Nelson, Essex; Mrs Flower, breeder with Huzar Seeds; Mr P.A. E. Herbert, of Aberystwyth; Owen, president of the RHS; Lady Palmer, of Torrington, North Devon; and B. Sturgeson, Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Christening The infant son of Mr and Mrs David Profumo was christened Thomas David by the Rev Christopher Hamel-Cook and the Rev Peter Watkins at St Marylebone Parish Church, on Friday, December 19. The godparents are Mr Simon Booker, Mr Angus Graham-Campbell, Mrs Graham Swift, the Hon Mrs Anselm Rothschild, and Mrs James Sassoon.

Dinner Stationery Office The Hon Peter Brooke, Minister of State for the Treasury, gave a private dinner last night at Brooks' to mark the retirement of Mr William Sharp, Controller and Chief Executive of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, at the end of his bicentenary year. Others present were: Mrs Sharp, Sir William Heston, Sir Robert Armstrong, Sir Peter Middlebrook, Gordon Howard, Mr Kenneth Bradshaw, Professor B A Tarshis, Mr Kenneth Aldred, Mr John Maclean, Mr John Dole, Mr Keith Grant, Mr Murray MacLean and Mr Michael Negropole.

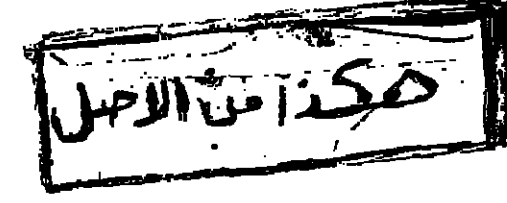
Service dinner The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers Officers of C (City of London) Company of the 5th (V) Battalion, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, held a dinner at HM Tower of London last night. Major H. Raiton welcomed the guests who included the Master and the Clerk of the Cordwainers' Company, Colonel M.J. Dudding, Lieutenant Colonel W.G. Pettifor and Lieutenant-Colonel A.J.M. Rice.

Latest wills Mr Alec Hobson, of Aylsham, Norfolk, secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and Wales, 1946-61, left estate valued at £278,650 net. Mr Harry Macleod Burghes, of Kingston Langley, Wiltshire, surveyor, left £3,642,419 net.

Science report Breathlessness helped by acupuncture use By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The use of traditional Chinese acupuncture in a British hospital has produced "encouraging and significant improvements" in relieving breathlessness suffered by a group of patients with severe lung conditions. The successful results of a pilot study into the treatment are "clinically and socially important", according to a report in *The Lancet* today. The patients who received acupuncture had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, for which there is no satisfactory drug treatment. Patients can experience intolerable breathlessness. Twenty-six outpatients at the Oster chest unit of the Churchill Hospital, Oxford, had the treatment. Their condition limited their exercise tolerance to walking between 20 and 300 metres. The patients were divided into two groups. Genuine acupuncture was given to the first group on 13 occasions over three weeks. Stainless steel needles were inserted along the middle of the knees. Neither electrical nor laser stimulation of the needles was used. The placebo patients were given the same number of "treatments" over the same period. However, their needles were inserted into "non-acupuncture" or "dead" points. Acupuncture has been reported to be therapeutic benefit in the control of back pain and migraine, and may work through the mechanism of endorphin release. The Oxford researchers decided to test the hypothesis that the treatment might be able to alter the perception of breathlessness and sensations of distress in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The two groups were tested for exercise tolerance in a series of walks during and following the experiment. The absolute improvements in distance walked in the treated group ranged from 27 to 181 metres, with a mean increase of 77 metres. When individual improvements were assessed they averaged 44 per cent on the last three walks, and 66 per cent on the last walk. Dr Kim Jobst, who organized the study, said some attempt would be made to assess duration of effect. Further detailed studies and a more prolonged course of treatment were also necessary, he said. "Whether improvement is achieved because the acupuncture mediates the release of endogenous opiates, as is thought to occur when it is used for pain relief, is purely speculative", he said. "It is possible that other peptides are implicated or even that some totally different mechanism is responsible."

Advertisement for Harpers & Queen magazine. The Present with a Future. Move into party power. Nicola Shulman touts the hosts. Eat out and be in. Meredith Etherington-Smith says where. Be merry merry well-dressed in all-over Christmas country-house clothes. Earn £1 million a year at 35. Nicholas Coleridge tots it up. Find film amusing. Alexandra Arley meets the grandest fluff. Look and feel divine. Harpers & Queen. This Christmas and all through next year - give Harpers & Queen. The glossiest present in Britain. Gift subscription £21.60. Please send one year's subscription to: block capitals please. name, address, postcode, my details are: name, address, postcode. please tick if gift card required. I enclose cheque/p.o. payable to HARPERS & QUEEN for £21.60. Alternatively debit my Access/Barecard/American Express/Diners no. valid until. Signature. Subscription rates: UK £21.60; overseas (surface mail) £31; air freight to USA \$55. Post to: The Subscription Manager, Quadrant Subscription Services, FREEPOST, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 3ZA.



BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Stalker is to retire early from the force

From the police... Stalker is to retire early from the force... (Continued from page 1)

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET FT 30 Share 1272.1 (+1.5) FT-SE 100 1632.2 (+1.6) Bargains 31646 (30087) USM (Datastream) 128.86 (-0.42) THE POUND US Dollar 1.4325 (+0.0030) W German mark 2.8729 (+0.0025) Trade-weighted 68.6 (+0.1)

Japanese licences for firms

Three British companies, Morgan Grenfell, Midland Bank and James Capel, have been awarded branch licences to operate as securities businesses in Japan.

Siebe agrees Ranco deal

Siebe has agreed to acquire Ranco for \$40 (£21.97) per share in cash, valuing Ranco at about \$150 million.

Below target

A £3.55 million provision against property developments in Britain and the US depressed pretax profits from Guinness Peat, the financial services group, for the year to end-September.

Heath acts

C E Heath, the insurance broking group hit by top management resignations, moved to restore confidence yesterday by announcing five new main-board directors.

No referrals

British & Commonwealth Shipping's proposed acquisition of Steel Brothers Holdings and of Exco International are not being referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Profit rises

Stainless Metalcraft, the fabricator of stainless aluminium and exotic metals in the medical, nuclear and aerospace industries, increased pretax profits for the year to end-August from £0.6 million to just over £1 million.

No sale

Associated British Ports will not buy Sealink's ports at Heysham, Newhaven and Parkstone Quay, Harwich, after preliminary talks failed to produce an agreement on financial terms.

Traded Opts 22 Stock Market 23 Money Markets 22 Foreign Exch 22 Wall Street 22 Commodities 24 Co News 23 USM Prices 24 Comment 23 Share Prices 25

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS New York 1918.45 (+5.63) Dow Jones Tokyo 18930.03 (+206.31) Hong Kong 2463.81 (+41.59) Hang Seng 220.8 (+2.5) Sydney: AO 1456.8 (+0.3) Frankfurt 2036.7 (+8.6) Brussels 4034.98 (-30.56) Paris: CAC 410.9 (+0.9) Zurich: S&K Gen 550.0 (-0.7) London: FT. A 82.92 (+0.15) FT. Glits 82.92 (+0.15) Closing prices Page 25

Guinness's 'gesture of confidence' Boesky £70m not short term

Mr Ivan Boesky's arbitrage partnership in which the Guinness group held a major stake was not a vehicle suitable for the short-term placing of funds, according to other participants in the fund. On Thursday, a Guinness spokesman likened the £69.8 million investment in the fund last May to "putting money in the bank".



Britoil's £35m HQ opened

Britoil's £35 million headquarters in Glasgow was opened yesterday by Mr Malcolm Rifkind, the Secretary of State for Scotland. It brings Britoil's 800 staff under one roof. Previously, the staff was located in 11 buildings in the city.

£50m Big Bang boost for BZW

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the securities arm of Barclays Bank, is to receive a capital injection of £50 million to fund international expansion and to respond to the substantial increase in business since Big Bang in October. In line with a statement made earlier in the year, Barclays Bank is to draw down £50 million for use in its securities business.

£600m foreigners' tap

The Bank of England announced yesterday that it is issuing £600 million of 2 1/2 per cent index-linked stock, with a maturity date of 2024. The stock will be free of tax to foreigners, the first time this has applied to an index-linked stock.

EEC takes Japanese tax issue to Gatt No end to whisky war

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor EEC negotiators yesterday rejected as inadequate Japanese offers to curb taxation on imported wines and spirits, among which Scotch whisky has been the main victim. It is now to take the dispute to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), the world trade body.



Dr Otaiba of the UAE arriving for the final talks

Opec may leave Iraq out of oil agreement

Oil prices firmed yesterday as Opec ministers, meeting in Geneva, appeared to be near agreement on production cuts which would reduce output by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels a day. Mr Riwanu Lukman of Nigeria and Opec president, spent the ninth day of the conference seeking approval from other oil ministers on the text of a final communiqué which would be presented to a full conference.

Fimbra suspends dealer

Fimbra, the watchdog body for licensed share dealers, has suspended the second member company within the last week after complaints over its share dealing activities. The latest company hit by the crackdown is Financial Management Services which has offices in London and Nottingham.

New chief for the IMF Leading a struggle for unity

From Bailey Morris Washington M Michel Camdessus, the new managing director of the International Monetary Fund, faces a formidable task in unifying the powerful agency after the bitter battle in the run-up to his election. Officials in Washington said yesterday there was resentment among some supporters of the Dutch finance minister, Mr Onno Ruding, who was narrowly defeated.

From next year it isn't just your clients to whom you'll have to prove your financial professionalism

Advertisement for The College of Financial Planning. Text: The Financial Services Act will open up tremendous opportunities to firms providing advice on financial planning. Conduct of business; practical guidance on applying for authorisation; the construction of business plans and the necessary supporting information; and new marketing and sales opportunities.

WALL STREET

'Triple witching hour' dampens early trading

New York (Reuters) - Shares were subdued as investors awaited the triple witching hour - the quarterly simultaneous expiry of futures, options and stock index options.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 0.14 points at 1,912.96.

Declining issues led shares by a three-to-two margin on a volume of 16 million shares. Chrysler led the active shares, down 1/4 to 38 3/4.

The transportation average was down 0.97 points at 324.37 and utilities had shed 0.58 points to 210.44.

Table with columns for Dec 17, Dec 18, Dec 19, Dec 20, Dec 21, Dec 22. Lists various stocks and their price changes.

Refunding scheme proposed by SIB

Investors who lose money when the investment company into which they put their money collapses, could receive up to £48,000 in compensation from the Securities and Investments Board, under proposals published yesterday.

The compensation scheme, which it is hoped will be in place by the end of next year, will also offer a pay-out if the firm flees the country with the money - but only if it is registered with the Board.

The scheme will pay the first £30,000 of a successful claim in full, as well as 90 per cent of the next £20,000 of the claim.

About £100 million will be made available to meet any claims in the first year of operation. It will be raised from the investment industry at large.

A publicity campaign is planned to steer the public towards registered firms. There will also be a new financial services ombudsman to look into investors' complaints if they feel they have not had sufficient redress from the SIB. He will be restricted to claims of up to £100,000.

Widening trade deficit pulls down UK growth

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

Britain's widening balance of payments deficit pulled down growth in the third quarter, official figures show. The average measure of gross domestic product rose by 0.3 per cent, to 2 per cent above its level a year earlier.

The figures underline the dangers for the economy if too large a proportion of demand is met by imports.

In the third quarter, consumer spending was strong, rising by 1.6 per cent compared with the second quarter, to 4.9 per cent up on its level in the third quarter of last year.

But despite this sharp rise, and smaller increases in investment and government spending, the expenditure measure of GDP fell by 0.1 per cent in the third quarter.

This was because imports rose at a far stronger rate than exports. In the third quarter, imports increased by 3.7 per cent in volume terms, while export volume was up only 1.2 per cent.

The growth rates over 12 months were 9.2 per cent for imports and 4.8 per cent for exports. Imports are calculated from expenditure to deduce gross domestic product, while exports are added.

The fall in the expenditure measure of GDP is disturbing when set against the strength of consumer spending in the economy.

Third-quarter spending on durable goods showed a volume increase of 11 per cent compared with a year earlier. This split between 8 per cent growth in spending on cars, 3 per cent on furniture and floor coverings and a 19 per cent increase in the volume of

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Table showing GDP Output Measure and Expenditure Measure for 1985 and 1986. Includes Average Estimate column.

Source: Central Statistical Office

months were 9.2 per cent for imports and 4.8 per cent for exports. Imports are calculated from expenditure to deduce gross domestic product, while exports are added.

The fall in the expenditure measure of GDP is disturbing when set against the strength of consumer spending in the economy.

Third-quarter spending on durable goods showed a volume increase of 11 per cent compared with a year earlier. This split between 8 per cent growth in spending on cars, 3 per cent on furniture and floor coverings and a 19 per cent increase in the volume of

supported largely by special effects, such as tax reductions put into operation this year and the sharp fall in the price of oil.

A second series of tax cuts scheduled for 1988 should be brought forward. Ifo expected growth of 2.5 per cent this year and between 2 and 2.5 per cent next year.

Herr Oppenlander said that increasing tensions within the European Monetary System (EMS) meant a reevaluation of the mark and a devaluation of the French franc were probable.

A further rise in the mark would depress export chances further, he added.

Slump in energy hits BHP

By Richard Lander

Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), the Australian industrial, energy and minerals group, continued to face low prices and difficult market conditions for many of its products in the six months to November 30 when net profits fell by 30 per cent to Aus\$397 million (£183.4 million) from Aus\$574.4 million.

BHP's oil and gas interests were particularly badly hit. Energy earnings slumped to Aus\$36.1 million from Aus\$332.8 million, with the Utah International division in the United States recording a loss of Aus\$42.1 million. Steel profits were also lower.

The company expects improved results in the second half, but said it would be difficult to match the record Aus\$98.2 million profits recorded last year. An unchanged interim dividend of 17.5 Australian cents has already been declared.

Officials said that the average estimate of GDP, up by 0.3 per cent in the third quarter and 2 per cent higher than a year earlier, is at present the best guide to growth in the economy.

Another disturbing feature of the figures came with the calculation for the GDP deflator - the best guide to overall inflation in the economy.

The GDP deflator at factor cost rose by 1.5 per cent in the third quarter. If this rate of increase was maintained it would imply an underlying inflation rate of more than 6 per cent.

Manufacturing output rose by 1 per cent in the third quarter, oil and gas extraction was up by 6 per cent. Construction output rose by 3 per cent.

US standstill agreement

Lloyd's names on PCW syndicates have secured a standstill agreement on American litigation. The 20 defendants to a potential action, including Lloyd's, agreed not to invoke the statute of limitations on any future lawsuit.

The agreement, made before the deadline on Wednesday, has averted temporarily the prospect of a multi-million dollar lawsuit over the PCW names' losses.

The names are now covered by standstill agreements in Britain and America.

German economy 'needs more tax cuts'

Munich (Reuters) - Herr Karl Heinrich Oppenlander, director of the Ifo economic research institute, said the current West German economic upswing was not self-sustaining. Early tax cuts were needed to give it further support, he added.

Herr Oppenlander said that growth was now being

The Ifo forecast is more pessimistic than a prediction published two months ago by the five leading institutes which saw 3 per cent expansion both this year and next.

Joint predictions from the institutes, which include Ifo, give the average of the forecasts for 1987 at 2.5 per cent and between 2 and 2.5 per cent next year.

The company is to purchase Plastic Moulders (Yorkshire) and T Morley & Co, subject to completion and listing of consideration shares. The consideration for Plastic Moulders is £400,000 and for Morley £500,000.

MACARTHUR'S: Final dividend 4p (nil), making 13.5p (2.2p), payable April 6. Figures in £000 for 17 months to September 30 (year to April 30). Pretax profit 6,057 (4,059), tax 2,327 (1,892), profit after tax 3,730 (2,167), extraordinary dividend net of tax 6,289 (1,211), earnings per share pre-extraordinary item 27.9p (16.2).

LWT (HOLDINGS): The chairman, Mr Christopher Baird, told the annual meeting that, during the 12 months to October 31, the company was the third biggest independent television company in advertising revenue terms.

BROWN & TAVISE: Interim dividend 2.2p (nil). Figures in £000 for six months to September 30. Turnover 51,737 (51,431), pretax profit 2,012 (2,910), tax 707 (1,164), earnings per share 6p (8.2). The chairman says that, while there are few signs of any significant overall improvement in demand, the company is confident that - with the expected benefits from acquisitions - the group's prospects are favourable.

CLUFF OIL HOLDINGS: The company has entered into a

COMPANY NEWS

RUSH & TOMPKINS GROUP: Interim dividend 2.75p (2.2p). Figures in £000 for six months to September 30 (six months to June 30). Turnover 73,965 (57,097), pretax profit 1,486 (1,284), after tax profit 1,266 (1,144), earnings per share 9.9p (9.7). The company has exchanged a conditional contract with Priest Marlow for the sale of the greater part of Rush and Tompkins' investment properties portfolio for £32.05 million. In addition, the company has agreed in principle to the sale of its office development in Aldergate Street, London, to a leading insurance company for £12.4 million cash.

BALDWIN: No dividend. Figures in £s for six months to October 31. Turnover 1,540,781 (1,431,824), pretax profit 69,814 (55,130), tax 20,246 (16,539), earnings per share 1.17p (0.96).

BARROW HEPBURN GROUP: The company is adding to its growing interest in chemicals by the acquisition of the Chemicals Trading Co from Joseph Nadin Contracting. The initial consideration was £1,050,000 cash. Deferred consideration of £500,000 in cash will become payable in April 1987 if the profits before tax for 1986 reach £265,000.

BROWN & TAVISE: Interim dividend 2.2p (nil). Figures in £000 for six months to September 30. Turnover 51,737 (51,431), pretax profit 2,012 (2,910), tax 707 (1,164), earnings per share 6p (8.2). The chairman says that, while there are few signs of any significant overall improvement in demand, the company is confident that - with the expected benefits from acquisitions - the group's prospects are favourable.

CLUFF OIL HOLDINGS: The company has entered into a

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table showing various options with columns for Series, Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec, Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct. Includes sub-sections for Call and Put options.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues with columns for Name, Price, and other details.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing foreign exchange rates for various currencies.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing sterling spot and forward rates for different maturities.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other sterling rates for various countries.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various currencies.

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Table showing Euro money deposit rates for different terms.

BULLION

Table showing bullion prices for gold and silver.

TREASURY BILLS

Table showing treasury bill prices for various maturities.

ECGD

Table showing ECGD rates for various maturities.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table showing traditional options for various stocks.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table showing London financial futures for various instruments.

Large advertisement for National Savings with the headline 'EASIER TO EARN OUR HIGHER RATE'. Includes text about the Ordinary Account and tax-free benefits.

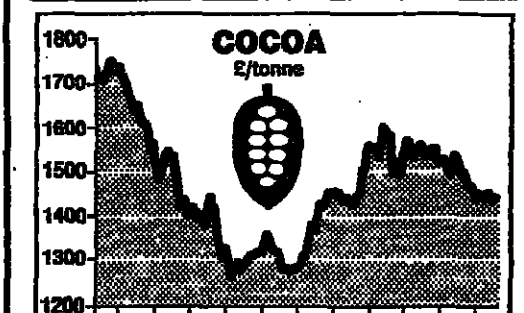
Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Mana' and other text.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust information with columns for Bid, Offer, and % change. Includes sub-sections for Weekly, Bid Offer, and % change.

UNLISTED SECURITIES table with columns for High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, and % change.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS table with columns for High, Low, Company, Bid, Offer, and % change.



Cocoa has enjoyed a modest technical rally recently but the threat of renewed producer selling lies overhead and confrontation of the 1986/87 Ivory Coast crop at 500,000 tonnes (the third highest on record) has been recently forecast. Comment by GNI.

COMMODITIES table listing prices for Soyabean, Lead, Zinc High Grade, Silver Large, and Coffee.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS table listing various financial trusts and their performance metrics.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE table listing prices for various metals like Copper, Lead, and Zinc.

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES table listing prices for wheat, barley, and other grains.

LONDON MEAT AND LIVESTOCK table listing prices for various types of meat and livestock.

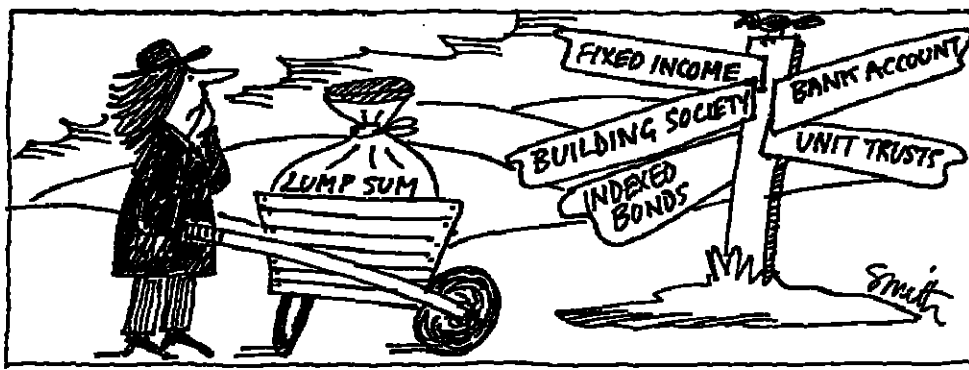
LONDON BEAN FUTURES table listing prices for various types of beans.

Edited by Peter Gartland

FAMILY MONEY/1

Keep investments that keep you

If you have been building up a nest-egg for retirement or have received a legacy that you wish to turn into steady spending power, the options on offer are almost limitless. LIZ WALKINGTON shows you the way through the maze



"Have capital, need income" is not an uncommon situation. The classic way of converting a lump sum into a flow of income is through an annuity. This provides an income for life in exchange for a single payment.

However, this is also the most drastic as the capital is given up forever. Other investments will provide an income while still leaving your cash untouched, for future use or positivity.

When you make a choice, there are several questions to be considered. Do you want a fixed income, or are you prepared for it to fluctuate as interest rates change? How frequently do you need payments? Do you want ready access to your capital, and should it be secure, or will you risk some loss in exchange for growth potential? Finally, what is your tax position?

Suppose, to start with, you want your money to be secure in value and fairly easily accessible. An obvious possibility is a building society account. Although these may be popularly associated with accumulating savings, several societies now offer accounts with a monthly income facility.

If you want immediate access to your money as well, the

choice is somewhat limited. Among the larger societies, the Alliance & Leicester, Cheltenham & Gloucester and Nationwide offer monthly payments on their instant access accounts, though the minimum investment is higher than usual.

The facility is more commonly available on notice accounts. These are also more rewarding, in terms of the interest offered, particularly for larger deposits. As you cannot withdraw your money

Interest that can be transferred regularly

at once without penalty, it is worth shopping around at the outset. Smaller societies often have the best offers.

A bank account is another possibility, although most of those paying higher rates of interest are primarily designed for accumulation. Either the interest is added infrequently, or withdrawals are restricted. However, there are some, such as Aiklen Hume's Monthly Income account, which give the option of having the interest regularly transferred to an ordinary bank account.

Both banks and building societies must pay interest net of composite rate tax, which cannot be reclaimed. If you are liable to tax, National Savings products are some of the few remaining investments which offer gross payments.

Monthly income first became available in 1982, with the introduction of the National Savings Income Bond. This now has a minimum of £2,000, with an upper limit of £20,000. The interest rate is variable, but six weeks' notice is given of any change.

An alternative, recently introduced, is the Indexed Bond, which also gives monthly returns. In this case the interest rate is fixed year by year and is guaranteed to rise in line with the retail price index for 10 years. However, it currently offers less than the standard Income Bond, and with inflation at a low level, indexation is not a big attraction. The minimum investment is also higher, at £5,000.

If it is a fixed income you are after, for budgeting convenience, two other options are guaranteed income bonds, offered by life assurance com-

panies, and local authority bonds. Both are available for periods of one to 10 years, with the level of interest fixed throughout. In each case, it is usually paid net of basic rate tax, but this can be reclaimed on local authority bonds and on some types of guaranteed bond.

One drawback to these investments is that interest is paid infrequently - every six months for the local authority bonds, and often only annually on guaranteed bonds.

Answer could be an income unit trust

although a few do offer monthly payments. Additionally, once you have bought either type of bond, you are effectively locked in for the full term, so it is as well to check out the various offers available before making a choice.

A feature of all the investments mentioned so far is that the capital value remains static. This means that where the interest rate is fixed, your income will also be the same year to year, and likely to be worth less, in real terms, as

time goes by. To keep pace with inflation, the interest rate would have to be rising steadily, which only the Indexed Bond will guarantee.

If you are looking for some growth potential, in both capital and income, the answer could be an income unit trust. Although the rate of return may look low when compared with other investments, growth in the capital value will lead to a rise in the amount you actually receive.

Distributions on unit trusts are usually made half-yearly, but three companies - Framlington, Schroder and Touche Renman - have funds which pay a monthly dividend. There are also several that offer monthly income portfolios. The basic version is a "package" of trusts which pay dividends in different months, but this has the drawback that both the date and the size of the distribution can vary month to month, depending on which fund is paying out.

A more sophisticated arrangement combines the unit trust portfolio with a bank or building society account. This collects the distributions from the trusts, and a set amount is transferred to your own bank account on the same day every month.

There is a slight disadvantage to non-taxpayers, in that the interest on the bank or building society account is paid for net of tax. In addition, this portion of your investment will have no growth potential. On the other hand, it does offer an element of capital security, while the value of unit trusts can go down as well as up.



Fun and good food worth more than its weight in gold: festive times at the Savoy in 1889

Gourmet's golden rule

Luxury service at one of the world's most famous hotels - the Savoy in the heart of London - is at best a once-in-a-lifetime treat for most of us.

It is such a golden experience that it makes a lot of sense to compare the price of a traditional Christmas meal at the Savoy with the price of the Savoy's luxury service has changed in recent years.

The price of gold per ounce on December 17, 1980, was \$580. By December 17, 1986, the price had gone right down to \$392.

However, by converting dollar-based gold prices into sterling and taking into account the much strengthened US dollar during that six-year period, you get a greatly changed picture.

On this basis the sterling price of an ounce of gold on December 17, 1980, was £250. Six years on you get a sterling price of £274.

Now for the Christmas meal prices. In 1980 a four-course Dejeuner de Noel in the Savoy Grill was priced at £18.50. A five-course Diner de Noel, also in the Grill, would have set you back £21.

This year's Christmas Day luncheon in the Grill will cost £60 including service and VAT. For the same price you can have your Christmas Day luncheon, including a Savoy Christmas Cocktail, in the Savoy's River Room and listen to Ricky Valente at the piano.

So what is the real comparison for similar menus? In 1980 a dozen people could have enjoyed

Christmas lunch in the Grill at £21 a head. This year you would need to add a fistful of £1 coins to the current market value of an ounce of gold so that five people could have Christmas lunch in the Grill or the River Room.

Now, how about that most British of all institutions - the Savoy Afternoon Tea? In 1980, at £2.75 a head the value of one ounce of gold would have bought afternoon tea for almost 100 people. This Christmas at £7.50 a head, afternoon tea for only 36 would be possible with the value of an ounce of gold.

The price of luxury service is clearly on the increase. But then there are times when the price is less important than the experience.

Arda Lacey

There's still a passion for platinum

It has been all fun and games in the platinum world this year. The shiny white metal has outpaced gold for most of the time, rising up from \$340 an ounce to \$670 in September, then dropping back to around \$485 at present.

The main reason for platinum's supercharged rise was a fear that South Africa, which totally dominates production in the Western world, might cut off supplies in retaliation against sanctions imposed by its customers.

The logic behind this argument was that platinum has many more industrial uses than gold. It is used in the electronics and chemicals trades, and most importantly in car exhaust pollution control devices. At the same time, it is a much less important source of revenue than gold for the South African government.

In the end, supplies stayed intact and prices retreated, but that has done little to quell enthusiasm among its followers. In a report out this week,

Shearson Lehman Brothers are predicting an average price of \$550 in 1987 compared with \$465 this year. There is likely to be a surplus of supply over demand next year, but Shearson's analysts say it will be small enough to be absorbed easily by investors' demand.

The best place to go if you want to take a bet on platinum - and Shearson warns prices could remain volatile - is the Noble coin made by Ayrton Metals, which qualifies as legal tender in the Isle of Man.

Ayrton sells the 1oz coin at 6 per cent above the current offer price for platinum metal and guarantees to repurchase it at a 3 per cent premium to the bid price. Bullion dealers were quoting platinum yesterday at \$484-\$486, which means you could buy a Noble for \$584.25 and sell it for \$555.25. Ayrton offer discounts for larger orders and also has a 0.1oz coin for more cautious investors.

Richard Lander

Thanks for the £20, Mr Lawson

The Charities Aid Foundation has given a warm welcome to the relaxation announced this week by Nigel Lawson on the maximum amount that can be donated to charity under the payroll giving scheme.

The Chancellor has raised the limit on donations qualifying for tax relief from £100 a year to £120, principally because of the practical difficulty of dividing £100 into 12 monthly instalments. The new limit means that from April 6, when the scheme comes into effect, anyone in a payroll giving scheme can give up to £10 a month to charity and get tax relief on the full donation at the top

rate of tax paid. So, for example, the actual cost of an annual donation of £120 for a 30 per cent taxpayer would be £60. Mr Lawson also said the Government would itself participate as an employer, meaning the scheme will be open to members of the armed forces and all 663,000 civil servants.

The scheme will work in this way. Where an employer is prepared to set up a scheme, employees will be able to donate a fixed amount every week or month to their chosen charity or charities. This amount will be deducted from pay at source and tax relief given automatically through the pay packet.

Employers will pass the donations to clearing houses to distribute the money to the chosen charities - these could be, for example, in the fields of famine relief, the arts or medical research.

The scheme will be entirely voluntary. No employer will be obliged to operate a scheme and no employee will be obliged to join. It will not affect charitable donations made through a deed of covenant. The two systems will operate quite separately and individuals will be able to make gifts and get tax relief under each system.

Peter Gartland

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Table with multiple columns listing various investment funds, their bid/offer prices, and weekly changes. Includes sections for CRANMER INSURANCE, CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE, and others.

Company	Share Price	Change
ABN	11.00	
Adam & Company	11.00	
BCCI	11.00	
Citibank Savings†	12.45	
Consolidated Crds	11.00	
Co-operative Bank	11.00	
C. Hoare & Co	11.00	
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00	
Lloyds Bank	11.00	
Nat Westminster	11.00	
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00	
TSB	11.00	
Citibank NA	11.00	

مكتبة من الأصل

FAMILY MONEY/2

Champagne Christmas quiz

- Consumer protection is currently a major talking point in the financial services industry. Who is the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board?
 - Sir Kenneth Berrill
 - Michael Howard
 - Sir Nicholas Goodison
 - Mark Weinberg
- Registered plan managers will be free to offer Personal Equity Plans (PEPs) from January 1. What is the maximum annual amount that an individual can invest in a PEP?
 - £2,400
 - £4,800
 - £6,300
 - No limit
- The forerunner of the Business Expansion Scheme was known by a different name. What was it?
 - Investment Income Surcharge
 - Business Start-up Scheme
 - Industrial Building Allowance
 - Life Assurance Premium Relief
- British Gas shares were initially offered to the public at a price of 135p, partly paid. But when the Pathfinder Prospectus was published a maximum price had been quoted. What was it?
 - 50p
 - 125p
 - 130p
 - 150p
- In 1986 the Department for National Savings celebrated a milestone in its history. In which year was National Savings founded?
 - 1861
 - 1886
 - 1914
 - 1969
- Who is the chairman of the world-famous insurance market, Lloyd's of London?
 - Sir Jeremy Morse
 - Peter Cameron-Webb
 - Peter Miller
 - Sir Peter Green
- At 29 per cent, the standard rate of income tax is now below the 30 per cent rate of capital gains for the first time. But when was capital gains tax introduced?
 - 1939
 - 1965
 - 1974
 - 1982

This week you have your second and final chance to take part in the Family Money CHAMPAGNE CHRISTMAS quiz, an opportunity to discover how much you really know about unit trusts, insurance, pensions, building societies and other subjects that generally come under the heading of personal finance such as the Business Expansion Scheme, tax and National Savings. And how quick are you to spot the names of key personalities in the personal finance world?

The CHAMPAGNE CHRISTMAS quiz consisting of 20 questions is designed to test your knowledge in a serious manner - though not too serious, of course.

The first all-correct entry form drawn from a hat will win a magnum of magnificent Krug Grande Cuvée champagne.

The next five all-correct entries will each win a bottle of Krug Grande Cuvée champagne, and the next 10 all-correct entries will each receive a £15 book token.

HOW TO ENTER:
Against each of the 20 questions shown below we have provided four possible answers - a, b, c or d. Only one of the answers is correct. All you have to do is select the correct answer and write a, b, c or d in the boxes numbered 1 to 20 at the bottom of the entry form.

Then send your completed entry to The Editor, Family Money, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive at this address not later than Wednesday, December 31, 1986.

The names of the quiz winners will be published in Family Money on Saturday, January 10, 1987.

- Unit trust funds under management have increased substantially in recent years. At the end of October what did the funds under management amount to?
 - £29.9 million
 - £90.3 million
 - £8.7 billion
 - £29.9 billion
- In which year did gold hit its peak price in US dollar terms?
 - 1986
 - 1974
 - 1980
 - 1981
- 1986 was the year of Big Bang, but Big Bang had its origins in a pact between the chairman of the Stock Exchange and a government minister back in 1983. Who was the government minister?
 - Sir Geoffrey Howe
 - Cecil Parkinson
 - Leon Brittan
 - Sir Keith Joseph
- The maximum mortgage loan on which tax relief could be claimed on the interest element was raised to £30,000. In which year did this become effective?
 - 1968
 - 1974
 - 1983
 - 1985
- Which of the clearing banks has launched a touch-screen, instant dealing service for British Gas shares?
 - Barclays
 - Lloyds
 - Midland
 - National Westminster
- 1986 has been the year of the acronym. One of the following is not a proposed self-regulatory organization. Which is it?
 - LAUTRO
 - BIBA
 - FIMBRA
 - AFBD
- Of which UK investment trust was the disgraced American arbitrageur Ivan Boesky until recently chairman?
 - GT Japan
 - Cambrian & General
 - Yeoman
 - Ailsa
- Which pop star recently became chairman of a financial advice company?
 - Cliff Richard
 - Gary Glitter
 - Adam Faith
 - Helen Shapiro
- The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau has had only one ombudsman since its formation in 1981. Who is he?
 - James Haswell
 - Ernest Saunders
 - Sir Kenneth Newman
 - Ian Edwards-Jones
- Which continental European market recorded the biggest percentage stock market index rise in the first 11 months of 1986 to the end of November?
 - Spain
 - Italy
 - France
 - Germany
- On which date did the Dow Jones Industrial Average touch its low point for 1986 in the period January 1 to November 30?
 - January 22
 - April 9
 - September 18
 - October 27



- RULES**
- Employees of The Times, News International, London Post (Printers) Ltd and their families are not eligible to enter.
 - Entries will be limited to one per person and must be made on an official entry form. Photocopies are not acceptable.
 - Entries must be received at the office of The Times by Wednesday, December 31, 1986.
 - Proof of posting will not be accepted as evidence of receipt.
 - The Editor's decision in all matters is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

ENTRY FORM

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

My choices are:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20

Send your completed entry form to: The Editor, Family Money, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, to arrive not later than Wednesday, December 31, 1986. Please mark your envelope CHRISTMAS QUIZ

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	11.00%
Adam & Company	11.00%
BCCI	11.00%
Citibank Savings†	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	11.00%
Co-operative Bank	11.00%
C. Hoare & Co	11.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	11.00%
Lloyds Bank	11.00%
Nat Westminster	11.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	11.00%
TSB	11.00%
Citibank NA	11.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

FREE GUIDE TO GILTS

HOW YOU CAN MAKE MONEY WHEN INTEREST RATES FALL

When interest rates fall, there will be significant profits to be made. For example, a 2% drop in interest rates could mean an 18% rise in capital value, on long-dated gilts.

Gilts still offer a return of over 11% a year - over 7½% higher than the current inflation rate. It's time to buy - the clever investor is already beginning to do so.

Etna's Gilt-Edged Bond is an actively managed fund which offers one of the most cost effective ways to invest in Gilts.

* No Front End Load - initial 5% saving over most gilt funds.

* Up to 90% cost savings over direct investment * No Capital Gains Tax * Up to 10% a year withdrawal facility

* Voted Financial Product of the Year 1986 by the Financial Weekly/Martin Paterson award panel - including first for value for money and investment performance

ACT NOW - while gilts are still cheap

Etna is the UK arm of the world's largest publicly quoted insurance group with assets equivalent to £38 billion. Etna Life Insurance Company Ltd., 401 St. John Street, London EC1V 9QE, Reg. No. 1786220.

8.75%
Instant access
£1,000 minimum

No other major building society can do it.

Only our Real Gold account pays 8.75% net, with immediate access twice a year, for so low a minimum balance. Other major building societies ask you to wait for your money, or to leave up to £5,000 or more in your account. And we have a Personal Financial Service which will help you plan your own investment portfolio. Other schemes, you will find, just won't stack up. For details of our Personal Financial Service, send the coupon or dial 100 and ask for freephone Bradford & Bingley.

To FREEPOST (no stamp needed) Bradford & Bingley Building Society, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 2BR.

Name.....

Address.....

Postcode.....

T 20/12

BRADFORD & BINGLEY
Our plans are built around you

NAME CAN VARY AND ASSUMES 25% INCOME TAX. INTEREST CALCULATED DAILY AND ADDED TO YOUR ACCOUNT ANNUALLY.

Please complete and send the coupon in an envelope addressed to: Etna Life Insurance Company Ltd. FREEPOST London EC1B 1NA. Or phone our Customer Care Centre - dial 100 and ask the operator for FREEPHONE Etna. The Centre is open 8am to 8pm each weekday.

Please send me my FREE Guide to Gilts and details of the Etna GILT-EDGED BOND to:

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss, etc)..... Date of Birth.....

Address..... Postcode.....

Name of usual Professional adviser (if any).....

Etna PS. If you are self-employed or have no company pension, please tick the box so we can also send you details of Etna's new Gilt-Edged Pension Bond.

the Gilt-Edged BOND

Could Santa be a Soviet subversive?

Britain's toy companies are demanding drastic government action to end toy dumping in Britain - which is going to be a bigger problem this winter than ever before.

"Santa Claus, whoever he is, puts hundreds of people on the dole queue year after year," said a spokesman bitterly this week.

"Yet we all condition our children to welcome him. We live in a mad, mad world.

"The competition is grotesquely unfair. There are no records of tax or VAT payments, though what Santa Inc

owes would pay for seven new major hospitals every year. And you're telling me that he has gnomes working happily for him round the clock for nothing but their own accommodation? You must be joking."

That whirlwind tour round Britain in a sleigh drawn by four reindeer, dropping presents down every chimney, sounds very charming - until you think about it.

Eight months after the Chernobyl disaster the beasts are still very suspect. A posse of radioactive reindeer polluting every corner of Britain's airspace is hardly the Christ-

mas offering that any environmentalist would want.

Reindeer - like the Devil - are cloven-hoofed and perfectly capable of carrying foot-and-mouth spores. The last big outbreak of the disease in Britain was in the 1960s, though there have been a few cases in the South since then.

But whenever it breaks out the consequences are terrifying. If one cow gets the disease, every other animal in the herd is slaughtered too. The crucial issue after every outbreak is to pinpoint the source of the disease, hardly possible when four potentially infected animals are crisscrossing the whole of Britain in the course of an evening.

The sleigh itself is almost as dangerous. Sleights do not formally come into the Civil Aviation Authority's classifications, though they count almost certainly as light aircraft. Small aircraft with solo pilots are legally obliged to file flight plans, if they are to fly over densely populated urban areas, and pilots themselves need a licence.

A series of disasters has resulted from private joyriding this year. The loss of two big jets and most of the passengers aboard resulted from crashes with small private aircraft that had not bothered to register their plans.

The aviation authorities are

not the only people concerned. The police are worried, too.

"We spend thousands of man hours trying to get through the message that children should never take sweets from a stranger," complains one weary chief inspector, "but every year parents still send their kids off to take presents from a man they've never met."

Children may send thousands of begging letters to Lapland every year - just addressed to Father Christmas. If he lived there, he would be the only person in

history to run a billion-dollar business from no fixed abode. Countries, clearly, pick up the post, though Finnish police have never found them. Two years ago they decided to build a psychological picture of the man behind the whole operation, bringing in a team of psychiatrists to help them.

They decided that dropping toys all over the world, wearing an anachronistic disguise, was probably an act of penance, reflecting someone's desire to be a child again. This was probably done out of a sense of guilt about the way that they had built up their fortune.

The theory is still popular.

The snag is that the local police have been through the records of every isolated property in Lapland, and there is not a single owner who fits the picture.

The trail for Santa Claus always seems to end close to the Soviet border, but until very recently no one made the connection. Now, however, it looks as though that piece of geography is the key. Prisoners held in the Arctic camps of Russia make a mass of soft toys, just as prisoners do in British jails.

But why should the Soviet authorities distribute free toys? Well, toys produced by prisoners cost nothing, and the delivery system that no one can explain provides Soviet intelligence with a picture of every Western city, house by house.

What is more, as competitive pressures force some Western toy companies to the wall, the industry opens up for "legitimate" Soviet toy exports, which provide a valuable source of badly needed foreign exchange.

No one really knows what is concealed behind all that talk of sleights, reindeer and presents down the chimney. But red-coated men with snow on their boots can easily have big teeth behind their beaming smiles.

Tom Tickell



INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Banks Current account - no interest paid. Deposit accounts - seven days notice required for withdrawals. Barclays 5 per cent. Lloyds 5 per cent. Midland 5 per cent. NatWest 5 per cent. National Girobank 5 per cent. Fixed term deposits £10,000 to £24,999: 1 month 7.55 per cent, 3 months 7.625 per cent, 6 months 7.625 per cent (National Westminster) 7.55 per cent, 1 month 7.19 per cent, 3 months 7.38 per cent, 6 months 7.38 per cent (Midland). Other banks may differ.

Table with columns: Name, Net Yield, Telephone. Lists various financial products and their yields.

National Savings Bank Ordinary Accounts - if a minimum balance of £100 maintained for whole of 1986, 6 per cent interest p.a. for each complete month where balance is over £500, otherwise 3 per cent. Investment Accounts - 11.75 per cent interest paid without deduction of tax, one month's notice of withdrawal, maximum investment £100,000.

An Equitable New Year

With the introduction of Nigel Lawson's brainchild - the personal equity plan - now just days away, more plans are coming on stream in time for the January 1 start date. One that aims to establish itself as a market leader is officially announced today. It comes in three versions from the Prudential, and the Pru's Derek Austen says he is looking for 10 per cent of the first-year estimated FEP market size of 500,000 investors.



Derek Austen: 10% hope

Two of the options are based on direct investment in company shares. Equiplan offers a single, lump sum investment by way of payments of £300, £1,200, £1,800 or £2,400. Multiplan, which is available only until the end of March, offers a regular payment option ranging from £75 to £300 a month over an eight-month

period. The third option, Uniplan, allows for a single lump sum payment of £420 to be invested directly in a Prudential unit trust. Next Saturday's Family Money will feature an up-to-date analysis of personal

The credit traps

A last-minute warning to Christmas shoppers comes from Warwickshire's county standards officer Noel Hunter, who says that choosing the wrong credit deal can add hundreds of pounds to the total cost of a purchase.

A survey carried out by Mr Hunter's department showed that a credit deal could add from nothing up to £200 to the purchase price of a £240 microwave oven.

Mr Hunter says he is concerned about the inadequacy of present laws that make it unnecessary in many cases to specify the total amount payable or the duration of the agreement. He intends to press the Government for improvements.

It is hardly practicable to shop around for the best deal

on the last Saturday before Christmas but if you are planning to buy that long-awaited luxury today, at least make sure you get full details of the credit terms being offered and understand how much you are going to pay and over what period.

Down to business

Running your own business is an appealing prospect. But if you are tempted to allow woolly ideas such as freedom and romance to cloud your judgment then you would be well advised to get hold of a copy of a newly published business start-up checklist. You will then be forced to confront yourself with such basic points as how you are going to drive the business forward, get vital sales at the right margins, meet production schedules and administer the business properly.

You will also have to ask

yourself difficult questions about the product or service you are planning to sell and its potential in the market-place.

The Business Start-Up Checklist aims to guide you through all this. It will not guarantee that you will make the right decision but it could stop you fooling yourself into thinking that you have a world-beater of a product on your hands. It is available from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Publications Despatch, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HL. The price is £6.50.

£30 bn milestone

The value of unit trust funds under management at the end of November went through the £30 billion barrier for the first time, according to this week's figures from the Unit Trust Association.

The actual figure of £31.2 billion is based on 958 authorized unit trusts, and before the year is out there will be at least one more step along the increasingly confusing road to 1,000 unit trust choices when Providence Capital launches a Hong Kong fund on December 27. The managers believe the long-term prospects for Hong

Kong look very promising and aim to take advantage by seeking out capital growth through investment both in the large established commercial, property and utility groups as well as through smaller developing entrepreneurial companies.

Cheaper Britain

Between 1980 and 1986 the cost of buying a shopping basket of essential items has increased by 42 per cent in the UK compared with 73 per cent for Western Europe as a whole and well over 1,000 per cent in several other countries. So says Employment Conditions Abroad Ltd, a company that has just completed a global cost of living survey. It shows that the UK cost of the shopping basket today ranks only 66th in order of magnitude in a league table of 70 countries. This contrasts with a corresponding ranking of 47th in 1980.

Nigeria is 150 per cent more expensive than the UK but Japan has moved to the top of the league, largely because of the strength of the yen. In 1980 Zaire was the most expensive country but has now dropped to eighth place.

Advertisement for N M Rothschild Asset Management featuring a large graphic of a map of Britain and the text 'WE'RE BACKING BRITAIN.'

WE'RE BACKING BRITAIN.

Britain's economy is shaping up well for investors. High levels of growth and low inflation have already pushed up company profits. (The FT Actuaries All Share Index rose 23.9% over the last year to 31,108.86 with net income reinvested.) More stable energy costs and increasing world trade are making investment here an even better prospect for the future. Now, through our Major UK Companies Fund, we give you the very best of British. Investment in blue chip British companies valued at £100 million or more. In names like ICI, Hanson Trust, Sainsbury's and P&O. And, as well as being in good companies, your money will be in good hands. The same Rothschild expertise that

Form for N M Rothschild Asset Management, New Court Major UK Companies Fund. Includes fields for name, address, and investment details.

Large advertisement for Cheltenham Premier Monthly Income Account and Cheltenham Gold Account. Features interest rates of 9.27% and 8.90% for the Premier account, and 8.80%, 8.55%, and 8.05% for the Gold account. Includes contact information for C&G Building Society.

FOOTBALL: THE RED-HAIRED LANCASHIRE TERRIER CANNOT WAIT TO DIVE STRAIGHT BACK INTO THE DOG FIGHT

Portsmouth told to go out and battle for the right to play the game

By Clive White

Alan Ball remains unrepentant. One week after the proud name of Portsmouth was sullied by its deep implication in the most notorious football match played in England for 31 years...



Ball: unrepentant

When Ball was appointed manager three seasons ago he called Portsmouth a "fighting club" and an unfortunate choice of words given last week's events...

can "take the milk out of your teeth". He said: "It's not the team you play against it's the places you have to go to."

Ball insists that no manager ever told him to go out and hurt people or do something that would get him sent off. He maintains that he treats his players the way he would like to be treated as a player.



Big day ahead: Liam O'Brien yesterday at Old Trafford, where he will make his debut for Manchester United against Leicester City today

Chelsea far from a lost cause Pleat warns Tottenham

By Clive White

David Pleat, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, expects to face the severest test today from the worst side in the first division. The Chelsea players whose fortunes last week sunk as low as they could go...

in some trouble at the time and they came and got a result. "I think Hollins has coped very well. He's remained very calm through it all. It's never easy for a manager when things are not going well but someone has to be rock bottom."

From part-time to the big time with Northampton

By David Powell

There is no room for the manager's office in the football ground at Northampton. And, if not for the fact that cricket is a summer game, there would be no room for the footballers either.

The transformation is due to two men

At their present rate Northampton will reach 116 points, which would comfortably outstrip the League record of 102 held by Swindon Town.

Manager Carr has 'street credibility'

Northampton's success in the counter-attack - "we get the ball forward early," says Morley, the skipper - has helped them because he has far and away the League's most prolific scorers. Their 53 goals (Nottingham Forest are next on 42) have been shared by every outfield player.

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

- Arsenal v Luton: Hill set to return for Luton after a month's absence. North is also added to last week's squad. Nicholas returns as substitute for Arsenal.
Charlton v Liverpool: Liverpool, already without Molloy and Johnson, have lost Venison with a back injury.
West Ham v QPR: Stewart has failed to recover from a hamstring strain. Potts will probably continue to be absent.

- Chelsea v Spurs: Allen has struggled off a minor injury. Chelsea is included as well in a squad of 13 which includes Ardiel. Claesen plays for the reserves.
Oxford v A Villa: Just as Villa welcome back William Elliott from suspension and Birch from injury so they lose Hodge with a virus. Oxford will probably be unchanged though Briggs will need a test on his ankle.
Reading rubbish Albion: kick, allowing Bremner to set Williams away on the right. His cross was measured to perfection for Bremner to plant a header out of Taylor's reach.

- West Bromwich Albion v Reading: West Bromwich Albion were subjected to chants of "what a load of rubbish" from their supporters as their promotion hopes took an unexpected knock at the Hawthorns last night as Reading easily recorded their first win in five games.
Scottish premier division: Dundee Utd v Hearts, Falkirk v Dundee, Hamilton v Rangers, Hibernian v Motherwell, St Mirren v Clydebank.
Scottish second division: Albion v Strirling, Alloa v Stranraer, Arbroath v Raith, Cowdenbeath v Berwick, Meadowbank v Ayr, Queen's Park v E Strirling, St Johnstone v Stenhousemuir.

BOWLS

£50,000 at stake at Coatbridge

An increased purse of more than £50,000 - a record for bowls - will be at stake in the Embassy world indoor singles championship at Coatbridge from February 7 to 15. The individual prize money has not yet been announced by the World Indoor Bowls Council but last February, out of a total of £41,000, Tony Alcock, the winner, received £11,000 and Phil Skoglund, the runner-up, £5,000.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL AND OTHER FIXTURES

Table with columns for First division, Southern League, Premier division, and other fixtures. Includes teams like Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, and various Scottish divisions.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Table listing regional television variations for Saturday and Sunday, including channels like BBC1, Granada, and ITV, and their respective programs.

SNOOKER

Hendry put on the invite list

Stephen Hendry, the young Scot, has been given a wild card entry into next March's Belgian Classic which has been dominated by the withdrawal of seven world ranked players (a Special Correspondent writes).

Table listing other sports fixtures including Basketball, Handball, Ice Hockey, and Snooker.

SPORT

Watford run out of early power

By Clive White

Watford	1
Norwich City	1

After an electrifying start by Watford with a goal in 90 seconds the force drained from their initially powerful performance last night, as if in sympathy with the power failure that delayed the start of this rearranged fixture

Two unsatisfactory first-half goals left the match nicely balanced at half-time, if even only in the score. Barnes, at his most outrageous, best, was deserving of a far better goal than the one which gave Watford the lead after just 90 seconds.

As well as inflicting most of the serious blows upon a beleaguered Norwich defence he also created some of the most worthwhile chances, putting over some excellent crosses from often hopeless positions. What with Callaghan, also a master of the art, doing much the same from the other wing, it was a wonder Norwich were still in the hunt by half-time.

Gunn, the Norwich goalkeeper, had his aerial work cut out, though it was lower down that he was found wanting when Watford seized their early initiative. Falco nudged on a clearance by Coton, the Watford goalkeeper, and when Culverhouse's half-hearted tackle left the way clear for Barnes the England player screwed in a shot of no great power which Gunn got a hand to, but he could still not prevent it trickling over the line.

Falco, who had injured his shoulder and side in a hefty collision with Bruce, put Barnes through again six minutes later with a delightful touch, but this time Gunn blocked the way.

However, in a rare expedition into Watford territory in the 23rd minute Norwich pulled level in even more fortuitous circumstances. Phelan, put into space by the neat and nimble Gordon, crossed the ball into the penalty area with minimum danger only for the situation suddenly to produce dire consequences for Watford when Terry deflected it past his goalkeeper and Bardsley could only help it across the line.

The Barnes-Gunn duel continued into the second half when a booted clearance from the back again released the alert Watford player. Gunn again raced from his goal to meet the advance head-on, but the ball broke kindly for Barnes and when he aimed his shot goalwards Bardsley stepped in to clear convincingly.

Watford pushed their corner tally to 17 with still half an hour remaining and Barnes again came close with a flashing header to a cross by Callaghan but the ball flew marginally wide.

WATFORD: A Coton, D Bardsley, W Roston, K Richardson, S Terry, J McCalland, N Callaghan, J Barnes, M Falco (capt), S Brown, K Bennett, G Potts. NORWICH CITY: B Gunn, T Culverhouse, A Spink, S Bruce, J Phelan, A Gammeter, I Gray, J Driskill, W Higgins, R Roscoe, D Gordon. Referee: J Lloyd (Wrexham).

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
FIRST DIVISION: Watford 1, Norwich 1.
SECOND DIVISION: Birmingham City 2, Sheffield United 1; Ipswich Town 3, Plymouth Argyle 0; West Bromwich Albion 1, Reading 2.
THIRD DIVISION: Chester 1, Chesterfield 1; Darlington 3, Port Vale 2.
FOURTH DIVISION: Burnley 1, Cardiff City 3; Halifax 2, Hereford 1; Scunthorpe 3, Exeter 1; Stockport County 2, Walsingham 1; Tranmere Rovers 0, Hartlepool 0 (game abandoned after 27 minutes, floodlights failed).

FIFA want seats only ruling for 1994 World Cup

By John Goodbody

In a drastic move to eliminate hooliganism, FIFA, the governing body of world football, are proposing to have only seated spectators watching all qualifying games and final stage matches in the 1994 World Cup.

Sepp Blatter, FIFA's general secretary, said yesterday that the intention is to bring the rule into force for the 1994 tournament but the plan is to recommend the same regulations for all qualifying games for the 1990 tournament when the finals will be held in Italy.

England's chances of staging future World Cups could be drastically affected because only Coventry City, of the 92 League clubs, are able to seat more than 50 per cent of the capacity. Attendances for preliminary games could be sharply affected because Wembley has only 45,000 seats.

Explaining the proposal, Mr Blatter said: "We are fully convinced that aggressive behaviour and the resulting disturbances are rarely encountered in the seating sectors. It is clear that there is greater potential for violence in the open, tightly-packed terraces."

The problem of football-related violence has already been discussed by FIFA's committee for security and the plan will now go to FIFA's 25-

man organizing committee for the 1994 World Cup.

Guido Tognoni, a FIFA press spokesman, said there was no question of England being forced to play their qualifying games for the 1990 competition, scheduled to begin in the 1988-89 season, in stadia where all spectators are seated.

"It will only be a recommendation and will not be compulsory. It will also not be compulsory for the 1990 finals in Italy because it was not in the terms of reference decided for the country willing to host the 1990 finals. But we will be selecting the stadia for 1990 shortly and this recommendation could affect which ones we select there," he said.

Chantal Jourdan, a member of Italy's World Cup organizing committee, said of FIFA's plan: "We all want to avoid violence and this is one method of achieving it."

"We want to change the mentality of people who go to football matches, to stop the idea that going to a match is a question of violence. If people are sitting they are calmer and less tense physically." Most of Italy's 12 proposed stadia for 1990 have 75 per cent seating capacity.

Mr Tognoni said that Mr Blatter's statement would also certainly be shared by Joao Havelange, the president of

FIFA and, for the 1994 World Cup, the world governing body could insist on no standing spectators for matches.

Brazil, the favourites, Morocco and the United States have all expressed an interest in staging the tournament.

One of the reasons England failed to get the 1990 World Cup was because there is only one stadium in England capable of holding 50,000 fans where the seating capacity is more than 50 per cent. The exception is Twickenham, the home of Rugby Union.

Mr Tognoni said: "We want to force the clubs, particularly in Europe, to have better stadia. It is very old-fashioned to stand for 90 minutes in pouring rain to watch sport. The Americans cannot believe it."

Glen Kirton, a spokesman for the Football Association, said: "This is an interesting idea. But we are sure FIFA realize that there are immense complications with what they are putting forward. There are commercial problems to start with and we do not necessarily think that making people sit down makes people behave better."

Mr Kirton pointed out that despite the reputation of England fans there had never been a major crowd incident at Wembley for an international.

Ipswich's goals in sweet revenge

By A Correspondent

Ipswich	3
Plymouth Argyle	0

Ipswich, in fifth place, needed just 10 minutes to take the lead against the side that began the game two places above them in the league.

Seeking quick revenge for a comprehensive defeat at the hands of their visitors in October, Ipswich began with a flurry of frantic attacks which had the untried Plymouth defenders hacking desperate clearances into all corners of the ground.

In only the first minute the Plymouth full back Nisbet was woefully short with a headed ball pass to his goalkeeper, Cherry, and two minutes later, the elegant Zondervan sent Wilson racing clear with a beautiful through ball only to see his shot deflected by Cherry.

But the goal which separated the sides at half-time was a proper reward for Ipswich's spirited and determined play. Wilson, inevitably, was the scorer. He had begun the game in joint first place with Quinn of Portsmouth, as the second division's leading scorer with 16 goals.

Clarke lifts City with early goals

By Dennis Shaw

Birmingham City	2
Sheffield United	1

Sheffield United fought back nobly at St Andrews last night after two goals from Wayne Clarke had set Birmingham up for a joyful start to their festive programme.

One second half goal by Steve Foley for Sheffield United was a disappointingly sparse return for their commendable attempt to exploit Birmingham's weaknesses.

A 19th minute handling offence by Dempsey to keep out Whittion's header from a Lynex corner gave Clarke the welcome chance for his 16th goal of the season.

Birmingham were quickly on the rampage again. This time Rees headed Mortimer's centre back across goal and Clarke was waiting to nod it over the line.

United's recent burst of respectable form was brought to a firm full stop. Wigley, on the right wing, was the man most likely to make a break for them, though he had little scope. Although they had Withe back after his nose injury, United's chances were strictly limited.

Yet Birmingham's seemingly secure lead suddenly looked shaky, on the resumption. Foley had the chance to beat Hansbury but shot wide.

Then Mortimer clocked Morris without playing the ball for an obvious penalty, but Hansbury brilliantly saved Morris's shot.

United's breakthrough came after 67 minutes with a little help from Hansbury. Foley's 20-yarder was straight at him but the goalkeeper stopped it then allowed the ball to pass under his body.

BRISTOL CITY: R Hansbury, B Roberts, J Dicks, T Williams, J O'Connell, D Mortimer, D Bremner, W Clarke, S Whittion, P Rees, S Lynex. SHEFFIELD UNITED: A Barmby, J M Pate, M Dempsey, P Stanchill, J Edmondson, C Morris, S Wigley, P White, S Foley, S Beagrie. Referee: J E Martin.

Nicholl tells of vendetta

Chris Nicholl, the Southampton manager, claimed yesterday that a mystery person with a vendetta is trying to ruin the club. "I am not going to name anyone - but it's very obvious that someone with knowledge of the club that goes back at least three years is out to get us down," Nicholl said.

His outburst was triggered by the news that Mark Wright, the England centre half, wants to leave because of "internal trouble".

Wright's demand was rejected first by Nicholl and then by the Southampton board. But he is expected to play at Nottingham today despite his desire to move.

"It all started when we had four wins in succession last month. Things were going really well. Obviously, someone did not like us winning games and started stirring things up," said Nicholl.

● Doug Rougvie, the Chelsea defender, has been charged with bringing the game into disrepute following his sending off in the 4-0 home defeat by Wimbledon a fortnight ago. Rougvie starts a two-match ban today, missing the London derby with Tottenham Hotspur at Stamford Bridge. But the extra charge has been brought because he was reported by referee, Howard King, for failing to leave the field after his dismissal.

● West Ham United will move a motion to halt the spread of artificial turf pitches for three years at a summit meeting of football clubs at Villa Park next month.

● Halifax Town's coach, Billy Ayre, was yesterday appointed the club's 21st post war manager. He takes over from Mick Jones who left this week to become assistant manager at Peterborough.



Wembley wisp: Martina Veliskova, of Czechoslovakia, on bars. (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

A touch of class for Wembley

By Peter Aykroyd

The Kraft International at Wembley this weekend has taken a huge move up in status with the presence of Oksana Omelianchik, the Soviet joint world champion, in the 10-nation tournament.

Her entry is also a significant measure of the international prestige now enjoyed by Britain by virtue of high gymnastic standards and renewed ability for competition organization.

However, Miss Omelianchik will not find the competition a walkover by any means. Three of her opponents are in the world's 20 top gymnasts and will test her to her limits. Two of them, Boriana Stoyanova, of Bulgaria, and Iveta Polokova, of Czechoslovakia, finished sixth and eighth in the recent World Cup, while Diana Dadeva, of Bulgaria, took the bronze medal in the Champions-All at Wembley last spring.

Also competing is Lisa Elliott, in her first major international since winning the British national title in October.

Among the men, Mitsuki Watanabe, of Japan, is rated thirteenth in the world, but faces the experience of Alexei Titkounich, of the Soviet Union, and the youth, of Zhong Jing, the Chinese with outstanding ability, a mixture that promises a fierce battle for medals. Britain's fast-improving man, while not likely to overshadow these three for the overall title, may cause a few surprises in some of the individual routines.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Solent snag

Solent Stars' hopes of competing in the world invitation club basketball championships at Crystal Palace on January 1-4 have hit a snag. Solent stepped in as a substitute team following the withdrawal of Polycell Kingston this week but have a Carlsberg division one fixture at Bolton on January 3.

For charity

Fulham Rugby League club, so hard up recently that they were on the verge of extinction, are dedicating Sunday as a fund-raising day for the Royal Marsden Cancer Hospital, Fulham play York in a division two match at Chiswick Polytechnic Stadium.

Title bout

Jim McDonnell's defence of his European featherweight title against the Italian, Valerio Nati, is likely to take place in Italy.

Victoria win

Sydney (Reuter) - Western Australia lost their final two wickets in a drama-packed five minutes late in the day to give Victoria the first innings points in their top-of-the-table Sheffield Shield match in Perth yesterday. The two points gave the visitors a clear lead in the table.

ATHLETICS New plans to ban South Africans

By Paul Martin

African sport and political leaders have drawn up campaign plans against 'allies of apartheid' who sneak South Africans into international competitions by using passports of convenience.

Next year, their first target is to ban athletes from running for Britain, or any other country, within two years of arrival from South Africa even if they were born in Britain or hold British passports.

The idea was received with some hostility by John Holt, the London-based International Amateur Athletic Federation secretary. "It would be impossible administratively: all we can check are athletes' passports, not their previous residences. We are here to help legitimate athletes, not block them. In any case, you can argue that they're not using passports for convenience: they are turning their back on South Africa. It is a one-way door; they can never return there to compete."

The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa, which concluded its annual meeting in Algiers this week, also threatened that African nations would systematically vote against candidates for top posts in international sports bodies whose countries "refuse to cease sports exchanges with South Africa". The Council's resolution also "warns countries which provide sanctuary for South African sport and which condone their sportsmen and sportswomen competing in South Africa, that they themselves could face isolation".

The move for a two-year ban on South African-connected athletes is to be made at the IAAF meeting in Rome next August, according to Sam Ramsamy, the International Committee Against Apartheid Sport's London-based organizer.

Gold for Pascoe again

Dreams of winning gold medals are as infrequently realized as plans by students on how to make their first million (Pat Butcher writes).

Alan Pascoe has combined both in the space of a dozen years, with the announcement yesterday that his company, APA Ltd, which has the contract to market British athletics, has linked with the American WCRS group, a leading advertising agency, in a share exchange which will open international markets for the marketing of athletics.

When he retired after winning the 400 metres hurdles in the 1974 European and Commonwealth championships, Pascoe bought into marketing, which he combined with being an ITV commentator before getting the contract to market British athletics 18 months ago.

Drugs claim was an error

From Ivor Davis Los Angeles

The future of Tim Witherspoon, the deposed World Boxing Association heavyweight champion, took a dramatic turn for the better yesterday when Jose Torres, chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, announced that a terrible mistake had been made and Witherspoon did not have traces of marijuana in his system as had been reported earlier this week.

"It was all a clerical error," Torres said yesterday. "A staff person had misread the coding on Witherspoon's urine samples. They really showed there were no drugs in his system. As soon as I realized the certainty of the mistake it took me six hours to track down Tim in Philadelphia. I reached him at 1.30 this morning so that he would be the first to hear of the mistake. He said he was very appreciative of the call and thanked me for being a fine sportsman and a gentleman in having sought him out."

As a result of the new findings, Torres said there will be no hearing before the commission later this month and there is no longer any risk of Witherspoon losing his licence.

In one of the biggest upsets of the year, Witherspoon was stopped in one round by substitute James "Boncrusher" Smith at Madison Square Garden on Friday night. Earlier this week, Torres said his office had found marijuana in pre- and post-fight tests and that the findings were confirmed by tests done by the New York Police Department. But yesterday he said the original error was merely compounded by a member of his staff.

Torres said: "We found the mistake when somebody called to ask what was the quantity of drugs found in Witherspoon's sample. We looked into it and realized that a staff member had misread the coding report on Witherspoon's urine. The calibration of the machine on the lab report was improperly recorded," he said.

Torres and Marvin Cohn, the deputy New York State Athletic commissioner, said: "The whole mistake was compounded. It's like you push the wrong button on a computer and the whole mistake multiplies. We've made a mistake and now we're apologizing publicly for it."

Cohn added: "I'm not going to pinpoint any employee. Anyone can make an error. We can assure you that we are tightening procedures by which testing for drugs is reported to the commission."

There was speculation in New York that Witherspoon may have grounds for legal action against the commission.

In Philadelphia, Witherspoon told the New York Post: "When I heard it was on the news I didn't even get excited. I knew this was going to happen. Don King [the fight promoter] is trying to blackmail me." Witherspoon claimed he had not smoked marijuana in "over a year."

"After what I went through in Atlanta [he was fined \$25,000 when traces of marijuana were found in his system after a bout against Tony Tubby] I would have to be the stupidest human being in the world to smoke again, especially a week before the fight. All year I've been passing tests. And now that I don't want to be with Don King I suddenly flunked two on the day of the fight."

"Don King knows I don't want to associate with him. He's going to try every avenue to discredit me," he said.

YACHTING

Skipper who cheated death is feared lost

From Barry Pickthall, Sydney

Jacques de Roux, aged 50, a lone sailor and a former French submarine commander, who was competing in his second BOC singlehanded Round the World race, is missing, feared drowned, after his 50ft yacht, Skoern IV, was found unmanned 250 miles south of here yesterday.

The skipper, who cheated death in this race four years ago after his yacht capsized midway between New Zealand and Cape Horn, last reported his position to race headquarters here at 5.20pm (local time) on Thursday when five miles off Green Cape, north of Bass Strait.

Officials first became concerned at 3.0am yesterday when the Argos satellite system, tracking the fleet, indicated that de Roux's yacht had inexplicably turned south away from the finish of this second stage of the race through the Southern Ocean from Cape Town to Sydney.

Frenchman, who reached here early yesterday to take fifth place on elapsed time, said on arrival that de Roux had failed to meet three radio schedules on Thursday and had reported the day before that he had hit his head badly on the spinner pole. "Perhaps he suffered delayed concussion and fell overboard," Bernardin said.

ARE YOU Self-employed and feel you can't afford to be ill?

The problem with being self-employed is finding the time to take time off. So when illness forces an unplanned rest on you, the financial consequences can be quite devastating.

That's why private insurance with BCWA makes sense. For over 50 years BCWA has consistently undermined the theory that private medical insurance is a rich man's club. During that time we have acquired a national reputation for being 'best buy' in the market.

Our schemes include excellent cover for private hospital charges, specialist fees, out-patient treatment, and an Additional Cash Payment option. BCWA ensures that when you are ill, you can afford it.

bcwa
Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria St, Bristol BS1 6AB
Tel: (0272) 2937-42

Bristol Contributory Welfare Association
PRIVATE MEDICAL INSURANCE
Bristol Contributory Welfare Association TT 20/12
Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AB
Please send me details of the Private Patients Scheme
I am aged under 65 For individuals
For members of Professional/Trade Associations

Name _____
Address _____

Kiwi

Tomorrow The gold

Hodge mo

Leeds lose

Reagan's